



*First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First
Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873*

*Saturday, April 15, 2023
With readings for the Second Sunday of Easter*

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(with scripture readings for the Second Sunday of Easter)

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshiping with us today! We hope that the service will be a joy and blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register, pass it down the pew for others to register and then place it in the offering plate. After worship, you're encouraged to introduce yourself to anyone you haven't met.

THE SERVICE BEGINS

P We begin this service IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER:

C O Mighty God, you raised your Son from the grave on the third day, defeating the power of death forever!

P AND OF THE SON:

C O Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior, we praise you for your glorious Resurrection victory, and, like the disciple Thomas, we confess you as our Lord and God!

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C O Spirit of power and might, guide us by your Word, that we may know the Lord, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings.

All: AMEN!

OPENING SONG: "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"

LBW 147

WE CONFESS

P Let us confess our sins, and hear the forgiveness of God.

C Like the apostle Peter, O Lord, our faith has sometimes wavered. There are days when we confess by our words and our lives that "You are the Christ, the son of the living God!" There are days when we are ready to walk on water with you. But there have also been days when we have denied you by our words and our lives. Forgive us, Lord! Restore us to fellowship with you and one another!

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P When Jesus Christ arose triumphant from the grave, he did not come back to take revenge on those who had persecuted him, nor on those who had disappointed him. He came to restore them. To the disciples, huddled together in a locked room, He came and said, "Peace be with you." To the people of Jerusalem,

he sent his apostles with a message of mercy and forgiveness. To Peter, who had denied Him three times, He gave the chance to confess Him three times. And He restored Peter to his call as a servant and apostle in His kingdom, saying to him, "Feed my lambs." These same words of restoration are for you! All your sins are forgiven. Come, be an apostle in Christ's kingdom! His peace be with you!

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Help us, almighty God, that our joyful celebration of the resurrection feast may be reflected in our daily work and conversation. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 5:29-42

²⁹Peter and the apostles answered {the high priest and the council}, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." ³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not

to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

P The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148 (Read responsively by whole verse)

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SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

P The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

¹⁹On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." ²⁴Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the

nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” ²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “REACH OUT AND TOUCH”

SONG: “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won!”

LBW 133

STATEMENT OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

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THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Holy Father, you have invited us to the banquet of your Son. We thank you for this gift of grace and for your promise of forgiveness. Lead us to your table with humble and repentant hearts, so that we may hear your Word for us. Make us mindful of your presence with us as we share in communion with you and one another.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

God of all creation, in many parts of your world the creation has begun its annual process of rebirth. As shoots sprout forth from the earth and trees put forth their buds, help us to see in these everyday miracles a hint of the promised glory of our own resurrection through your Son, Jesus.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

God of mercy, teach us to recognize the priceless treasures of grace and reconciliation you have given us in your Son, Jesus and then to be bold and generous in offering that same grace to those who may have hurt us. In a world divided on many fronts, may your Spirit lead us to be agents of reconciliation and peace.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Healer of our every ill, in every corner of the world your children suffer in mind, body, and spirit. Many lack the basic necessities for life – clean water, nutritious food, and adequate shelter. Others find themselves overcome with grief and despair, while still others face the challenges of medical concerns. Empower your church to be sources of healing and wholeness and voices of hope.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

SHARING OF PEACE

OFFERING

WE PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts!

C We lift them up to the Lord!

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

P When Jesus instituted Holy Communion at the Last Supper before his crucifixion, He promised His disciples that one day they would again feast together in the kingdom of heaven.

C Dear Lord, keep us steadfast in faith until that day!

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **ALL** Amen.

CLOSING SONG: "Lord, Dismiss Us with your Blessing"

LBW 259

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

Pastor: Tom Thorstad (716) 990-6244(c)

Secretary: Dianna Wittwer (815)378-6654(c)

Pianist: Nancy Plote

Hosts: Lynne Peterson

Attendance Easter Sunrise 4/9: 43

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secretary@kirklandflc.org

Offering Counters: Mary Loomis & Jean Bauer

Attendance Easter Festival Sunday, 4/9: 68

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Debi Hetland 4/10

Jim Hetland

4/11

Connie Worden 4/13

Jill Vodden

4/17

Some have celebrated their birthday already, please wish them a happy belated birthday.



Pauline Cultra 4/20 (90th)

Please send her a card! On the narthex bulletin board there is an envelope with her address on a label.

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

No Anniversaries this week. If I have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let me know. Thank you, Dianna

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Val Norris has agreed to direct VBS this year. VBS will be June 5-8, 2023. She will need volunteers to help and donations for supplies and snacks. More information will be provided soon.

Church Treasurer Update:

This past council meeting on April 11, 2023 Gary Steinhorst resigned as treasurer and the council appointed Ryan Block to fulfill the remainder of Gary's term. The Council accepted the resignation and extended a deep thanks to Gary for his 18 years of service. Gary was appointed as an advisor to Ryan to help with the transition of taking over the Church Treasurer. We are thankful to Ryan for stepping up as our next church Treasurer.

Watch for Spring Fling information and June 3rd Ice cream Social.

Sunday 4/16: Join us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Adult Forum 10:30am. Newsletter Items due today!

Monday 4/17: Food Truck Delivery, 9:30am.

Tuesday 4/18: Food Pantry set up, 9:30am; food dist., 12-2pm.
Newsletter Folding, 2pm.

Wednesday 4/19: On-line Bible Study resumes, 7pm

Saturday 4/22: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 4/23: Worship Service, 9am. Sunday School to follow.

PARISH CONCERNS

Please keep in your daily prayers all people in need, including those mentioned here:

- VBS, pray for many children and many volunteers.
- Pastor Ian Griffith, full recovery from jaw surgery.
- Jason Gorski, as he battles cancer.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying,
- All those who are not able to worship with us because they are in health care facilities or homebound: Ina Koehler, Nancy Bakanas, George Vodden and many others.
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams.
- Our church and its activities, and all Christian churches.
- All elected leaders, police officers, first responders, and military personnel, that they hear and receive God's guidance and protection.
- Persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.

CHURCH FUN FACTS

In 1953 Wayne and Jane Paulson built a four by six-foot addition on the back of their garage to house a boiler to heat its upstairs so they could raise chinchillas there. Vehicles swerved around this addition until the alley crookedly moved toward church property.

Lessons for Next Week:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-16; 1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35