



Let not your hearts
be troubled.

Believe in God;
believe also in me.

John 14:1

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

*Saturday, May 6, 2023
With readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter*

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(with scripture readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter)

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshipping 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 into 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: "Beautiful Savior"

LBW 518

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

O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 7:2a, 51-60

^{2a} And Stephen said:

⁵¹"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." ⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

¹{Jesus said,} “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that

I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

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

SERMON: Pastor Deuane

SONG: “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

LBW 367

STATEMENT OF FAITH: Nicene Creed

LBW p.64

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, we thank you that you have taught us what you would have us believe and do. Help us to keep your Word in pure hearts, so we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and in death.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, strengthen the hearts of those who provide mothering care in any situation, so that Christ's love would be revealed in the generosity shown to all our children. Bless mothers and those who love with a motherly love. Comfort those whose mothers have entered into the saints in light and those who carry the pain of barrenness.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you lead us in paths of righteousness for your name's sake. We ask for guidance, and pray for all those who are faced with difficult decisions. We pray that in all we do, whether in word or deed, our choices and decisions will serve your will and bring glory to your name.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you have promised to be with us always, even to the close of the age. By your comforting presence, abide with those who feel unloved, who deal with crisis, and who struggle with illness [especially ...]. Surround them with people who will show compassion.

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

LBW p.71

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: "God Be with You til We Meet Again" REC 55

1. God be with you till we meet again,
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again,

Refrain:

Til we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Til we meet, till we meet,
God be with you til we meet again

2. God be with you till we meet again,
Neath his wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you,
God be with you till we meet again, Refrain

3. God be with you till we meet again,
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put his arms unfailing round you,
God be with you till we meet again,
Refrain

4. God be with you till we meet again,
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threat'ning waves before you,
God be with you till we meet again,
Refrain

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: Josh & Jack Sunderlage

Attendance Last Saturday 4/29: 11

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

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Offering Counters: Keith Krabbe & Elda Bruning

Attendance last Sunday, 4/30: 43

Lessons for Next Week:

Acts 17:16-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Leah Anderberg 5/8

Lenny Peterson 5/16

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

George & Jill Vodden 5/9/99

If I have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let me know.

Thank you, Dianna

VBS "God's Living Water"

June 5 – 8, 9-11:30am. Please sign up to help.

CHURCH FUN FACTS

Randy Carlson's grandmother won the fellowship hall's piano in a pie eating contest and donated it to us. Now we want to give it away and even Randy doesn't want it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TO SING NEXT WEEK

Just a reminder parents, the Sunday school students will be singing next Sunday.

Hiawatha Greenhouse will be open Fridays, 3:30 – 5p and Saturdays, 8a – Noon through May 20th.

Sunday 5/7: Join us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Adult Forum, 10:30am.

Monday 5/8: Special Meeting with Dean Carlin Ours, 7pm.

All are welcome.

Tuesday 5/9: Food Pantry set up, 9:30am; food dist., 12-2pm.

Church Council, 7pm.

Wednesday 5/9: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Thursday 5/10: Lydia Bible Study, 1pm.

Saturday 5/13: Worship Service with baptisms, 5:30pm.

Sunday 5/14: Worship Service, 9am. Sunday School to follow.

Sunday School students will be singing for the congregation.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

PARISH CONCERNS

Sincere sympathies to Jason Gorski's family. Keep Jason's wife, Amanda, and two children in prayers. May the promise of God's resurrection, bring Jason's family and friends peace.

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

- Elaine Mitchell is at St. Anthony's, waiting for shoulder surgery.
- VBS, pray for many children and many volunteers.
- First Lutheran's many volunteers who give countless hours to take care of all our church activities and the property.
- Ben Blobaum, pray for God's leading to his 1st church.
- Don Peterson, Louise Hoffman's brother has been ill.
- Pastor Ian Griffith, full recovery from jaw surgery.
- Pray for pregnant women and the babies they are carrying, especially Alexis Haag.
- 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.
- The NALC, NALS, the Great Rivers Mission District, all Christian churches, and our partners in SC and PA.