

A person stands on the peak of a large, rugged rock formation, arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The sky is filled with dramatic, colorful clouds in shades of blue, orange, and red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is one of awe and spiritual connection.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Psalm 103:1

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

*Sunday, September 17, 2023
16th Sunday after Pentecost*

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16th Sunday after Pentecost, September 17, 2023

WELCOME! We hope that this service will be a blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down your pew. Once it is complete, place it in the offering plate.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. All who believe that Christ is present in this Sacrament are invited to share in His supper. The inner glasses on the tray are grape juice and water, the rest of the glasses are wine. Children who have not received Communion instruction should kneel at the altar with their arms crossed upon their chest to receive a Baptismal blessing.

LBW - Green Hymnal WOV – Blue Hymnal *Please stand as able.

Prelude

Order of Service

Welcome and the Announcements

- *Brief Order for Public Confession P. 56
- *Opening Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" **LBW 543**
- *Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie P. 57
- *This Is the Feast P. 60
- *Prayer of the Day

Direct our hearts, O Lord, by your merciful reign, because without your help it is impossible to please you. 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.

Children's Sermon (No children's sermon on Communion weeks. Children will immediately follow the Sunday School Leader to Sunday School.)

First Reading Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please

forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Psalm 103:1-12 (*responsively by whole verse*)

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Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

*The Alleluia

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*Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Sermon: **“THE MATH OF FORGIVENESS”**

*Hymn of the Day: “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

LBW 307

*Nicene Creed

P. 64

*Prayers of the Church

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God of love, you have forgiven us of our sins, known and unknown and restored us to a right relationship with you through Christ. Help us to forgive others who have hurt or

disappointed us, that we may be freed from the suffering of holding a grudge and they might know your grace.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

As farmers gather their crops from the fields, bless them with great bounty that all might share in the goodness and abundance of the earth.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

God of Light, bring your comfort and protection to all those who are away from home - either at school, college, in the military, or away for work. Watch over them and return them home safely when their tasks are completed.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Bring peace of mind and heart, and wholeness and healing of body and spirit, to all who suffer from any illness or distress. [We pray particularly for ...] Grant them a sense of your constant presence through those who care for them.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

*Sharing of Peace

Offering

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

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*Offertory Prayer

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*Great Thanksgiving

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*Words of Institution

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*The Lord's Prayer

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Lamb of God

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Communion Distribution

*Thank the Lord

P. 72

*Post Communion Prayer

*Benediction and Threefold Amen

*Closing Hymn: "Take My Life, that I May Be"

LBW 406

*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

***Congregation: Thanks Be to God!**

* Postlude

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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

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

Pianist: Jill Vodden

Lay Reader: Louie Mielke

Ushers: Chris Boyer (head usher), Ashley Boyer, and James Haag

Offering Counters: Roger Buer & Lisa Coyle

Attendance Last Saturday, 9/9 :10

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Coffee Servers: Louie Mielke

Acolyte: David Thorstad

Last Sunday, 9/10:47

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Marvin Bernhardt 9/16	Randy Nelson 9/19
Miranda Nelson 9/20	Sarah Rehn 9/20
Dave Pfefferkorn 9/21	Angie Springborn 9/22
Judy Lacefield 9/22	Janet Peabody 9/22

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

Mike & Sue Sester 9/22/79

CHURCH FUN FACTS

Did you know? There are usually 25-30 bags of clothes that are donated to the Salvation Army when the Clothes Closet change-over happens in the fall and spring. If you would like to help with this, the ladies would appreciate the help. Please contact June May, Jean Bauer, Elda Bruning or Loraine Krabbe. This Wednesday, Sept. 20th, they will begin the process.

DISTRICT CONVOCATION

The Annual Great Rivers Mission District convocation is Saturday, October 14, in Flanagan, Illinois. Keynote speaker will be Pastor Brad Hales from Reformation Lutheran Church in Virginia. He is also NALC Church Director for Church Planting/Aging and is a very dynamic speaker and motivator within the NALC. We are looking for another person/delegate to join Pastor Tom at this all-day event. If interested, please talk to the Pastor prior to the October 10 Council Meeting.



ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Do you have **October 29** on your calendar? That's our 150th Anniversary Celebration, and you are invited to a 9:30 am service followed by a Hy Vee catered dinner of ham and chicken with a short program after that. Although the dinner is a donation-only event, you need a reservation. There is limited seating available.

Call Connie Worden at 815-721-1605 or email the office at **secretary@kirklandflc.org** by October 1.

STREET LIGHT DECORATING

FLC will again be decorating a street light pole downtown for the Christmas season, and we are inviting the congregation to submit ideas for a new decoration. Possibly our 150th anniversary could be part of the theme! Please submit any ideas to a council member.

BEN BLOBAUM'S ORDINATION

Ben Blobaum's Ordination Invitation is on the narthex bulletin board.

Next Week's Readings:

Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 27:1-9; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30;

Matthew 20:1-16

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday 9/17: Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Monday 9/18: Food Truck Delivery, 8:30am.

Tuesday 9/19: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; distr., 12-2pm.

Newsletter folding, 2pm.

Wednesday 9/20: Clothes Closet clothing change-over, 9am.

Help would be appreciated!

On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Saturday 9/23: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 9/24: Worship Service with Sunday School to follow, 9am.

Monday 9/25: Clothes Closet open, 12-1:30pm.

PARISH CONCERNS

Praise God – Chuck Schindler is doing better; he is home and is officially off hospice care!

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

- Jim Hetland is dealing with on-going medical problems.
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams, especially Chuck Schindler, Ina Koehler, James Klus, David Sanderson, Susan & Jim Colgan and Mark Bernhardt.
- 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: Nancy Bakanas, George Vodden and many others.
- All those who are affected by the natural disasters.
- 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, and all Christian churches.