



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

*Saturday, September 23, 2023  
With Readings for the 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

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**With Readings for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**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 and pass it down the pew. Then after worship, you're encouraged to introduce yourself to anyone you haven't met.

LBW – green hymnal \*Please stand as able.

## **THE SERVICE BEGINS**

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

**C** Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for sending us the Holy Spirit, to be with us always and to remind us of your son;

**P** AND OF THE SON:

**C** Dear Lord Jesus Christ, you comforted your followers with the promise of the Holy Spirit, who makes us holy;

**P** AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

**C** Dear Holy Spirit, you came upon the church at Pentecost. Fill the church with your presence and power, now and always!

**All: AMEN!**

## **OPENING SONG:**

“All Creatures of Our God and King” vv. 1-4

**LBW 527**

## **WE CONFESS**

**P** Let us confess our weakness and sin, and hear the comfort of God.

**C** Dear Holy Spirit, we do not know how to pray as we ought. We confess that we have lived according to the flesh, with our minds set on the things of the flesh. We know this is death. We pray that each day you will set us free, setting our minds on the things of the Spirit, which is life and peace. (Romans 8:5-6,26)

## **WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION**

**P** The Spirit helps us in our weakness, and prays for us with sighs too deep for words. You are no longer in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit, who dwells in you. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. His peace be with you!

(Romans 8:1,9,11,26)

**C** And also with you.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### 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.

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

<sup>6</sup>“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

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

### PSALM 27:1-13 (Read responsively by half verse)

p. 227

### SECOND READING

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

<sup>19</sup>... {F}or I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. <sup>27</sup>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come

and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**P** The Word of our Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 20:1-16

<sup>1</sup>{Jesus said,} “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup>And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last.”

**P** The Gospel of our Lord

**C**

Thanks be to God.

# SERMON: "A FAIR WAGE"

**SONG:** "Jesus Shall Reign"

**LBW 530**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** – Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Heavenly Father, you have called us from among the peoples and nations of the world to be your own and to serve you with our lives. We pray that you would keep us steadfast in faith. May we sing your praises and confess Christ as Lord to all we meet so they would know your mercy and grace.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the gift of the seasons. As we move into the season of Autumn, may we find delight in the changing landscapes around us that reveal the beauty of your creation. May we be reminded of your never-failing presence in all the seasons of our lives.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, source of all good things, make us respond to those around us with the same generosity that you have first shown to us. Let us put our complete trust in you alone.

Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, pour out the healing grace of your presence on all those who are sick and suffering, [particularly ....] Restore wounded lives, hearts, and bodies by the holy anointing of your Spirit.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW p.71

## **OFFERING**

## **CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING**

(The prophecy of Joel, recorded in Acts 2:17-21)

**P** In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,

**C** And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy!

**P** And your young men shall see visions!

**C** And your old men shall dream dreams!

**P** Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

**C** Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

## **BENEDICTION**

### **CLOSING SONG:**

“All Creatures of Our God and King” vv. 5-7

**LBW 527**

**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: Dan & Janelle Pahnke

Attendance Last Saturday, 9/16:8

Website: [www.kirklandflc.org](http://www.kirklandflc.org)

[pastor@kirklandflc.org](mailto:pastor@kirklandflc.org)

[secretary@kirklandflc.org](mailto:secretary@kirklandflc.org)

Last Sunday, 9/17: 45

## **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Paisley Haag 9/29/15

Denny Rehn 9/29

## **ANNIVERSARY**

Tyler & Madison Marshall 9/25/21

Dennis & Lynne Peterson 9/26/81

Jerry & Janet Sheehan 9/29/95

## **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.

## **THANK YOU!!**

Thank you to the brothers & sisters of the church. Marge is doing better, and the prayers helped and are greatly appreciated!

Charmaine Massey, Marge & Jim Harger (Charmaine's brother & sister-in-law)

## **BEN BLOBAUM'S ORDINATION**

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

## **CHURCH FUN FACTS**

In 1985 Paul Whitcombe, the choir director during Gordon Rasmussen's organist days, put choir music on cassette tapes and made them available for a donation.

## **ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

Have you RSVP'd for the Anniversary dinner? There is limited seating available. We are getting close to capacity, so call Connie Worden at 815-721-1605 or email the office at [secretary@kirklandflc.org](mailto: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.

## **CHURCH LIGHTS & HEAT/AIR CONDITIONING**

If you notice the lights or the narthex heat/air conditioning on after a service, please feel free to turn them off. Help us to keep costs down.

## **PING PONG TABLE AND /OR DESK**

I am doing a bit of housekeeping downstairs in the Sunday school area. There is a ping pong table in good shape for anyone to take home. There is a nice heavy desk in the room across from the Sunday school area. It needs a new home.

Donations are accepted for the Sunday School program. Please contact Susan Wilson (224) 629-0016.

If nobody wants the items, I will advertise on marketplace, and Vsale. (the computer) and the monies collected will go towards Sunday school.

Thank you kindly,  
Susan Wilson

Sunday 9/24: Join us after the service for Adult Forum and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Tuesday 9/26: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 9/27: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Thursday 9/28: Wittenberg Door Pastor's fellowship, 10am here.

Saturday 9/30: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 10/1: Communion Service with Commissioning of our newly Confirmed; Sunday School to follow, 9am.

### **PARISH CONCERNS**

Condolences - Robbie Hollingsworth, age 28 died suddenly. Robbie is the son of Mike & Katie (Karolus) Hollingsworth and John Karolus' grandson. May God's promise of the resurrection bring peace to Robbie's family.

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

- Church painter, TJ Hillmer for safety and efficiency as he works.
- 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, Dale Johnson, 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.

### **Next Week's Readings:**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-10; Philippians 2:1-4 [5-13] 14-18; Matthew 21:23-27 [28-32]