



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

*Saturday, October 21, 2023
With Readings for the 21st Sunday after Pentecost*

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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 Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" LBW 328

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

O God, our refuge and strength, since you yourself are the author of our devotion, graciously consider the devout prayers of your Church. May those things which we ask in faith effectively follow by your grace; 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 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ²"I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things."

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

PSALM 96:1-9 (Read responsively by half verse)

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SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that

you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

P The Word of our Lord

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle {Jesus} in his words. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

P The Gospel of our Lord

C

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "THE GOVERNMENT AND I"

SONG: "Take My Life, that I May Be"

LBW 406

STATEMENT OF FAITH – Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of love, you gather us together by the power of the Holy Spirit into Christian community. Give us the willingness to work together for the sake of the Gospel, hearing your voice guiding us in all we do as we serve the world you love.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

As daylight diminishes and the night's darkness lengthens, keep us ever mindful of the light we have in Christ. Move us to seek the wisdom of your word, which is the light unto our paths.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, you have given us all good gifts and have equipped us to serve our neighbors in your name. Give us the creativity, inspiration, and resources to accomplish the mission set before us. Help us to discern where we are needed and also where we are not needed.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you prepare a place for us even in the presence of our last enemy, death itself. We thank you for leading safely home all those who listened to your voice in this earthly life [especially ...]. Keep us close to your side and lead us to that place where we shall dwell with you and all the redeemed and feast at your heavenly table forever. 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: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

LBW 221

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: Chuck Huey & Darla McManus

Attendance Last Saturday, 10/14: No Service

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Last Sunday, 10/15: 42 adults; 9 children

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

John Karolus 10/22

Chris Boyer 10/24

Ina Koehler 10/28

Lexus Tompkins 10/30/03

Alexis Haag 10/31

Richard Wilson 10/31

ANNIVERSARY

Drew & Sabrina Peterson

10/21/11



Our 150th Anniversary Celebration is next Sunday!

Next Sunday, October 29th church will begin at **9:30am**.

Please wear **RED** as next Sunday is Reformation Sunday.

It will be a Communion Service. Sunday School students will be singing.

Bishop Dan Selbo will be here as our presiding Pastor.

The catered luncheon will begin shortly after the service has concluded. A free will donation would be appreciated.

Reminder – NO Saturday night service on 10/28.

BEN BLOBAUM'S ORDINATION

Ben Blobaum's Ordination will be on Sunday, Nov. 5th at 4pm in Flanagan, IL. Please see the invite on the Narthex bulletin board.

STEWARDSHIP PACKETS HAVE BEEN MAILED

The theme this year is "Duty & Delight".

From Luther's Small Catechism, Martin Luther's explanation to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed, *"For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him."* Another way to share this is, "It is my **duty** to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him."

How can I practice this daily?

If you don't receive your packet by October 29th, please let Dan or Janelle Pahnke or Dianna Wittwer know.



**Kirkland Food Pantry Prepares for the Holiday Season
We are requesting \$20.00 Donations
For Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes
Please Help**

Your \$20.00 contribution will give a needy neighbor something to be thankful for during the upcoming holiday season. The Kirkland Food Pantry's annual holiday assistance program includes the purchase and distribution of dinners that include a 12 to 16 lb. Whole Frozen Turkey or 4-6 lb. Turkey Breast, vegetables, fruit, potatoes, yams, stuffing mix, gravy mix, beverage, and dessert for a family of six to eight.

During 2023, we have helped over 80 different local area households. Help us to reach even more families by giving what you can. Donations can be made in care of either the First Lutheran Church or the First United Methodist Church. **Please write in the check memo area "Thanksgiving Dinner" or you may place the check in an envelope with "Thanksgiving Dinner" written on it.**

The Kirkland Food Pantry and its many volunteers and supporters sincerely hope that everyone in our community will enjoy the blessing of a wonderful Thanksgiving.

PAINTING UPDATE

The painter, TJ, will be finishing up in the Narthex area this weekend. There may be a few areas that we need to be cautious of until the paint has cured.

Sunday 10/22: Join us after the service for Adult Forum and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday 10/24: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 10/25: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Thursday 10/26: Wittenberg Door – Pastor’s Fellowship, 10am.
Anniversary Choir practice, 6pm.

Saturday 10/28: NO WORSHIP Service.

Sunday 10/29: **9:30am** Reformation Communion Service; Sunday School children will sing. Wear red in honor of Reformation.

PARISH CONCERNS

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

- All those who will be attending the 150th Celebration especially those traveling far.
- The unrest in the Middle East.
- 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.
- 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:

Revelation 14:6-7; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36