



*Look down from heaven, and see;  
have regard  
for this vine.*

*Psalm 80:14*

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

*Saturday, October 7, 2023  
With Readings for the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

# *First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, October 7, 2023**

**With Readings for the 19th 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:** "Praise and Thanksgiving"

**LBW 409**

## **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

Generously pardon and give peace to your faithful people, O Lord, that being cleansed from every sin, we may be free and glad to serve; 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 5:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. <sup>2</sup>He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. <sup>3</sup>And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup>What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? <sup>5</sup>And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. <sup>6</sup>I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. <sup>7</sup>For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

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

## PSALM 80:7-18 (Read responsively by whole verse)

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## SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

<sup>4b</sup>If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — <sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the

power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**P** The Word of our Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 21:33-46

<sup>33</sup>{Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people,} “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants and went into another country. <sup>34</sup>When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup>And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup>And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. <sup>40</sup>When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup>They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.” <sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? <sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. <sup>44</sup>And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” <sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

**P** The Gospel of our Lord

**C**

Thanks be to God.

# SERMON: "CONFIDENCE IN WHAT?"

**SONG:** "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

**LBW 294**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** – Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Almighty God, strengthen and sustain all congregations who gather around your Word and Sacrament and venture forth to bring the Good News of your redemption to all. May we be humble in our serving, counting all as a loss which we do for ourselves and all as a gain that Christ does in our lives.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of all creation, may the fields yield a fruitful harvest and bring forth an abundance so that all may find sustenance from the bounty of the earth. Feed those around the world that have little or nothing to eat; provide assistance to teach people to grow food and feed their children.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we love because you first loved us. Grant strength to all married couples that their lives would be a blessing to those around them and that they would model your love for your people, as they live with you in the center of their lives.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer with illness or pain, [particularly ... .] Restore them to health and wholeness and surround them with compassionate caregivers who remind them of your love for them and your never-failing presence.

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:** "On Our Way Rejoicing"

**LBW 260**

- 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 Last Saturday, 9/30: 7

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

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

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Last Sunday, 10/1: 45 adults; 14 children

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Darla McManus 10/9    Jim Loomis 10/11    Michael Klus 10/13

**ANNIVERSARY**

Ryan & Jennifer Block	10/8/16
Brian & Krista Haberkamp	10/11/03

**DISTRICT CONVOCATION**

The Annual Great Rivers Mission District convocation is next Saturday, October 14, in Flanagan, Illinois. 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.

### **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.

### **DESK**

There is a nice heavy desk that needs a new home. Donations are accepted for the Sunday School program. Please contact Susan Wilson (224) 629-0016. If nobody wants the desk, I will advertise on marketplace, and Vsale. (the computer) and the monies collected will go towards Sunday school.

Thank you kindly,  
Susan Wilson

### **PAINTING UPDATE**

The painter will be working in the fellowship hall beginning on Monday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday 10/8: Join us after the service for Adult Forum and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Church Council, 7pm

Wednesday 10/11: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Saturday 10/14: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 10/15: Communion Service; Sunday School to follow, 9am.

Newsletter Items due today!

### PARISH CONCERNS

**Donna Peterson** passed away on Sept 26<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral was held on Monday, Oct.3.

**Lois Swan** passed away on 9/18. Her celebration of life was in Elgin.

**Marilyn Fink** passed away on Sept. 30. She was living in Beloit, Wi. May God's promise of the resurrection bring peace to Donna, Lois and Marilyn's family and loved ones.

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:**

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:4-13; Matthew 22:1-14