

Watch
therefore,
for you know
neither the day
nor the hour.

Matthew 25:13



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

*Saturday, November 11, 2023
With Readings for the 24th 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 WOV – blue 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: "Be Thou My Vision"

WOV 776

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

Almighty, eternal God, show mercy to your children who humbly pray, that we who have no confidence in our worth may not be judged but tenderly received. 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

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

PSALM 70 (Read responsively by whole verse)

p. 247

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

¹{Jesus said to the disciples,} “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P The Gospel of our Lord C Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “LIVE AS THE WISE IN FAITH”

SONG: “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

LBW 294

STATEMENT OF FAITH – Apostles’ Creed

LBW p. 65

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Everlasting God, your Son promised he would return to the earth one day. Help us to be ready for his return, that our lamps would be lit and our hearts would be open to Jesus’ second coming. Remind us that because of our faith there is nothing to fear and everything to look forward to as Jesus will judge us innocent, having taken our place on the cross.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord God, ruler of us all, you desire that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Let your blessing rest on our civic leaders and all whom you have placed in positions of authority, that your people may lead quiet and peaceable lives, godly and respectful in every way, free to pray and work in your service.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of the harvest, grant favorable weather for all the farmers who are bringing in the crops this season. Watch over them and prevent accidents or injuries as they work around large machines. Provide for our daily bread and make us truly grateful for all we have. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful God, as a sign of your holy reign, grant that this congregation will identify with the suffering, the sorrowing, and the sick in both our local and global communities. By your Spirit empower us to seek ways to serve and reach out to those on the fringes in loving and tangible ways. [We offer prayer this day particularly for ...]. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p.71

OFFERING

(We lay our completed pledge materials before the altar.)

BLESSING OF QUILTS

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: "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

Host: Lynne Peterson

Attendance Last Saturday, 11/4: 10

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org

Last Sunday, 11/5: 33 adults; 7 children

THANK YOU TO ALL VETERANS!

BAPTISMAL CONGRATULATIONS!!!

We rejoice, tomorrow, as God welcomes **Clara Jane Norris**, daughter of Heath and Taylor Norris, into His family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Congratulations and God's richest blessings to **Clara**, her family, and her baptismal sponsors, Brad & Denise Norris. Clara is the sister of Natalie and the granddaughter of Val Norris.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Roger Bauer 11/11 Donna J. Koehnke 11/13

Tim Wittwer 11/14 Charmaine Massey 11/19

STEWARDSHIP – DUTY & DELIGHT

Heavenly Father, we know what it means to delight in something. You delight to show mercy. By your Spirit, rekindle in us the gift of delighting in you. In Jesus' name. Amen

PASTOR'S PLAQUE

Have you seen the plaque that has the history of all our Pastor's? It is in the narthex, please look at the gorgeous piece. This was donated from David Paulson. He also paid for the narthex and fellowship painting. **Please sign the "Thank You" card that is in the narthex.**



QUILTS, LAP ROBES, AND AFGHANS

Many thanks and blessings to all who give their time, talents, and treasures to create these gifts of love. There are 72 quilts that will be blessed this weekend and then bless those in need.

KIRKLAND FOOD PANTRY PREPARES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

We are requesting \$20.00 Donations for Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes. Donations can be made in care of either the First Lutheran or the First United Methodist Church. In the memo line, please write "Thanksgiving Dinner".



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.

Sunday 11/12: Join us after the service for Adult Forum and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday 11/14: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Church Council, 7pm

Wednesday 11/15: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Thursday 11/16: Wittenberg Door Pastor's Fellowship, 10am.

Saturday 11/18: Communion Service with pledges to the altar, 5:30pm.

Sunday 11/19: Communion Service with pledges to the altar;
Sunday School to follow, 9am. Newsletter Items due today!



PRAYER REQUEST

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

- 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, Jim Hetland, Susan & Jim Colgan, Mark Bernhardt and Riley Wrobel.
- 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 Middle East unrest.
- 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:

Zephaniah 1:7-16; Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;
Matthew 25:14-30