



ENTER INTO  
THE JOY  
OF YOUR MASTER.

MATTHEW 25:21

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

*Saturday, November 18, 2023  
With Readings for the 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

# First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First

Saturday, November 18, 2023

(with scripture readings for the 25th Sunday after Pentecost)

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.



## Holy Communion

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

## THE SERVICE BEGINS

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

**C** Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for creating all living things and causing them to grow;

**P** AND OF THE SON:

**C** O Jesus Christ, our Savior, in whom we have been born anew, help us to grow up in every way into You, who are our Lord;

**P** AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

**C** Dear Holy Spirit, you have called us all and gathered us together as the Body of Christ, the Church. Help your church to grow – in numbers, in faith, and in love.

**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. 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**

Lord God, rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit, that while keeping the end of all things in mind, we may be stirred up to holiness in this life and come to be with you forever in that life to come. 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**

Zephaniah 1:7-16

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the LORD God! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. <sup>8</sup>And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice — "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. <sup>9</sup>On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. <sup>10</sup>On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. <sup>11</sup>Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' <sup>13</sup>Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." <sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. <sup>15</sup>A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

**L** The Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 90:1-12** (Read responsively by half verse)

p. 258

### **SECOND READING**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

<sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

L The Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

<sup>14</sup>{Jesus said to the disciples,} "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, 'You wicked and

slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

## SERMON: “STEWARDS OF GOD”

**SONG:** “Take My Life, That I May Be”

**LBW 406**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** – Nicene Creed

LBW p.64

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

LBW p.65

Holy Father, through water and the Word, you have washed away our sins and given us a promise in which we can trust. We thank you for laying claim to us in our baptism and adopting us as your own. Help us to live lives of trust and repentance. Give us new life by the work of your Spirit.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the giver of all good gifts. Thank you for giving us a place within your family and for lavishing your blessings upon us. Grant us the gift of truly thankful hearts, and a willingness to express our thanks with joyful songs of praise.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Be with all those who are traveling to distant places this week. Grant them safety on the roads and in the air. Be with all who operate or work on airlines, railroads, taxis, or busses. Give people patience and consideration as they make their way to and from family gatherings.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of all creation, you have filled the earth with wondrous natural resources. Grant that they would be used with care and that all would benefit from their usage. Protect against those who would hoard resources or gain from taking them away from others.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## OFFERING

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

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## WE PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

**P** The Lord be with you.      **C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts!      **C** We lift them up to the Lord!

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p.71

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

## THE BENEDICTION

## THE CLOSING RESPONSE

**P** When Jesus instituted Holy Communion at the Last Supper before his crucifixion, He promised His disciples that one day they would again feast together in the kingdom of heaven.

**C** Dear Lord, keep us steadfast in faith until that day!

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING SONG: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

LBW 771

**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, 11/11: 15 adults 1 child

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

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

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

Offering Counters: Roger Bauer & Renee Krabbe

Last Sunday, 11/12: 51 adults 51

## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Charmaine Massey 11/19      Beth Jones 11/20

Jack Sunderlage 11/26      Joshua Sunderlage 11/26

## ANNIVERSARY BLESSING!!

James & Sara Haag      11/22/02

Jim & Carolyn Suhr      11/26/71

## STEWARDSHIP – DUTY & DELIGHT

Heavenly Father, you are delightful beyond our imagination. Through your Spirit, teach us to delight in you, and to find ever-growing delight in serving you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

## SOCKS

The Lydia Circle will begin collecting new, white socks next week for the homeless in our area. There will be a box in the narthex until Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.**

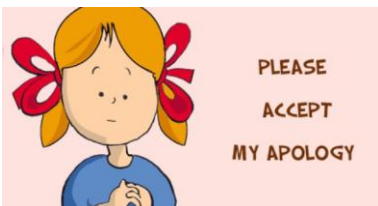


## QUILTS, LAP ROBES, AND AFGHANS

After double checking our numbers, there were 98 quilts in total. (I had a chance to see some of them, they were beautiful! Dianna)

## 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". They will be picked up on Monday!



I'm so sorry for last week's bulletin with the same reading, twice. Maybe someone needed to read 1 Thessalonians 4, twice? I'm so sorry! Dianna

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

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28;  
Matthew 25:31-46

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday 11/19: Join us for coffee after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Adult Forum, 10:30am. **Newsletter Items Due!**

Monday 11/20: Food truck food delivery, 9:30am.

Thanksgiving Dinner boxes pick-up, 12-2pm.

Tuesday 11/21: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; distr., 12-2pm.

Newsletter Folding, 2pm.

Wednesday 11/22: **NO** On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Thursday 11/23: Happy Thanksgiving!

Saturday 11/25: Worship Service, 5:30pm. White Socks collection

Sunday 11/26: Worship Service with Sunday School to follow, 9am.

White socks collection.



## PARISH CONCERNS

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

- Beau Norris, age 11, will be having a cardiac procedure on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. Beau is the son of Brad & Denise, and grandson of Val Norris.
- 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.