



Let us make a joyful  
noise to the rock  
of our salvation!

Psalm 95:1

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

*Saturday, November 25, 2023  
Eve of Christ the King*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, November 25, 2023**

## **EVE OF CHRIST THE KING**

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL** who are worshipping 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 OPENING:** *Responsive reading from Psalm 24:7-10*

**P** Lift up your heads, O gates!

**C** And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

**P** Who is this King of glory?

**C** The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

**P** Lift up your heads, O gates!

**C** And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

**P** Who is this King of glory?

**C** The Lord of hosts, HE is the King of glory!

**OPENING SONG:** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" vv. 1-3 **LBW 170**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*in the words of the thief on the cross*):

**P** One of the criminals who were crucified next to Jesus kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal, a thief, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"

**C** We indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but Lord, you have done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!

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

**P** Jesus Messiah utters to us this royal decree: "Your sins are forgiven; truly I tell you, you will be with me in Paradise." The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose mercies are new to us every morning, and who, though we have in no way deserved your goodness, has abundantly provided all our needs of body and soul: Give us, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we may wholly acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

<sup>11</sup>“For thus says the LORD God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the LORD God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

<sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the LORD God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

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

**PSALM 95:1-7a** (Read responsively by whole verse)

p. 260-261

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

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

## GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

<sup>31</sup>{Jesus said to the disciples,} "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup>"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not

visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

## **SERMON: “CHRIST THE KING”**

**SONG:** “Crown Him with Many Crowns” vv. 4-6

**LBW 170**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** – Apostles’ Creed

LBW p. 65

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Another year in the church has ended, reminding us that our time in the present world will also end in you. Teach us to number our days, that we may live in the confidence that you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever, the King of truth.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, Jesus said that whatever we do to those who are the “least,” we also do to him. Make us generous in our words, actions, and with our resources, that we would follow Jesus in loving discipleship all our days. Let us not look past those in need or neglect those who are suffering, rather let us give of ourselves and trust that God will use us to care for his people.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of the Sabbath, be with all of us this day that we would find rest and regeneration. Help us to hear and know you in our keeping of the Sabbath so that we might be renewed for work in your kingdom. each and every day.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Life-giving Spirit, transform our communities into places of welcome for those who have been shunned or marginalized. Help us to see in them the very presence of our Lord Jesus. Then by your power, send

us forth with greetings of grace and peace on our lips and compassion and mercy in our hearts. Be with all who suffer [especially...]

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:** "Rejoice, the Lord Is King!"

**LBW 171**

**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: Chuck Huey & Darla McManus

Attendance Last Saturday, 11/18: 15

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

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

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

Last Sunday, 11/19: 28 adults

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Jack Sunderlage 11/26

Joshua Sunderlage 11/26

Laura Block 12/1

Audrey Boehmer 12/1/2017

Sue Sester 12/2

**ANNIVERSARY BLESSING!!**

Jim & Carolyn Suhr

11/26/71

Larry & Judy McMurray

12/1/81

Jim & Debi Hetland

12/3/77

**Children's Christmas Program** is right around the corner, only 2 weeks left to practice! Costumes & singing rehearsal are needed to make certain the program runs as smoothly as possible. Sunday school attendance is encouraged.



**Poinsettia Memorial Garden** - Order forms are in the Narthex.

### **SOCKS**

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

### **KIRKLAND FOOD PANTRY PREPARES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

There were 62 turkey meals handed out on Monday and Tuesday. Thank you to all who donated towards the purchase of the meals.



The dedicated volunteers spent Monday unloading a food truck and preparing a food line for the meal boxes for pick up, only to learn that the turkeys and meat for Tuesday's pantry day were not on the truck. The truck driver returned later while phone calls were made to ask people to come from 2-4pm instead of 12-2pm. Tuesday was a normal food pantry day, open from 12-2pm, with set-up at 9:30am prior to opening.

Very busy days for the food pantry volunteers! **THANK YOU** for your dedication!

### **STEWARDSHIP DRIVE**

Did you receive a Stewardship Drive envelope or possibly may have misplaced it? If you would like to have an envelope, ask Dianna Wittwer for one. If you have placed your envelope in the office, offering plate or on the altar – **THANK YOU!** Our church is very active and without volunteers we wouldn't have such a vibrant and welcoming church. We are very grateful to all our contributors, whether that be financially, by volunteering or possibly both.

**CHRISTMAS IN KIRKLAND** will be Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

See the Bulletin board for the full details and the Methodist Church's Craft & Cookie Extravaganza.

Sunday 11/26: Join us after the service for Adult Forum and coffee in the Fellowship Hall.

Monday 11/27: Clothes Closet open, 12-1:30pm.

Tuesday 11/28: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 11/29: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Saturday 12/2: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 12/3: Communion Service; Sunday School to follow, 9am. The Children's Christmas program is Dec 10<sup>th</sup>.



### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- Emmaline Haag is having some kidney health problems. Pray for a clear diagnosis.
- 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.

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

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37