



THEY HAVE WASHED  
THEIR ROBES AND  
MADE THEM WHITE  
IN THE BLOOD  
OF THE LAMB.

REVELATION 7:14

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

*Saturday, November 4, 2023*  
*EVE of ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, November 4, 2023**

(with scripture readings for All Saints' Sunday)

LBW – green hymnal

**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.



As part of our All Saints' Service, we remember with a prayer of thanksgiving to God the following departed loved ones who were members of First Lutheran, or in whose funerals or memorial services Pastor Tom Thorstad participated in since last All Saints' Day:

**Donna Peterson Lois Swan Marilyn Fink**

## **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:** "For All the Saints" vv. 1-4

**LBW 174**

## **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**

Almighty God, you have knit together your people in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son, Christ, our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys which you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **FIRST READING**

Revelation 7: 9-17

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." <sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup>They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup>For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be

their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

**PSALM 149** (Read responsively by half verse)

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**SECOND READING**

1 John 3:1-3

<sup>1</sup>See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, {Jesus} went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

**SERMON:**

**“POOR IN SPIRIT, BUT STRONG IN FAITH.”**

**SONG:** “For All the Saints” vv. 5-8

**LBW 174**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** – Nicene Creed

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## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord of heaven and earth, keep your church attentive and faithful that she may be ready for that day when your redemptive work is complete and all things will be made new in Christ. Bless those who are merciful, patient, long-suffering, and giving.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for all who lived and died believing in your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for the memories we share of loved ones whose lives have touched our own; memories that are precious gifts from your most gracious hand. Give us grace to trust your Word and your promise of eternal life together with those who have gone before us, [naming those . . . ] encouraged by the witness of their lives of faith.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of peace, war and violence threaten to destroy the peace and well-being that you desire for your people. Strengthen and sustain those who seek to bring an end to violence and war and those who live in war torn areas. Open our eyes to the ways in which we participate in violent or oppressive situations. Open our mouths to speak words of peace, love and justice when necessary.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Merciful One, look with compassion on your children who are still learning about your never-ending power, love, and mercy. Bring strength and peace to those who need it most [particularly ...]. Help us to understand and accept your eternal healing power.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## REMEMBRANCE OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES OFFERING

### WE PREPARE FOR 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 or 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.

**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**

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### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

**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:** "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

Attendance last Saturday: No Service

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

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

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

Host: Richard & Peggy Wince

Last Sunday 10/29: 119 adults    21 children

## **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

McKenzie Mielke 11/5/2008

Kylee Heck 11/8/2002

Riley Wrobel 11/10/2009

Roger Bauer 11/11

## **WOW! WHAT A SPECTACULAR DAY!**

This last Sunday was a spectacular day as we celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It couldn't have happened without all of your support. If you missed the service, look online, [www.kirklandflc.org](http://www.kirklandflc.org) . If you want an ornament, visit the fellowship hall. You get one more "wrap- up" article in the next newsletter.

## **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 will be in the narthex, next week (11/11).

## **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".



## **STEWARDSHIP – DUTY & DELIGHT**

Heavenly Father, You give us duties to perform, and purposes to serve. Through Your spirit, help us to see these duties as gifts from You, to be offered to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sunday 11/5: Join us for coffee and Bible study in the Fellowship Hall after service.

Tuesday 11/7: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30am; Dist., 12-2 pm.

**Church Council will be next week on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>.**

Wednesday 11/8: Bible Study on-line, 7pm.

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

Veteran's Day! Please take the time to say  
"Thank you" to a veteran.



Sunday 11/12: Worship Service with pledges to the altar, Blessing of quilts, and Sunday School to follow, 9am. Newsletter Items due.



### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- The unrest in the Middle East.
- Susan Wilson is dealing with medical issues.
- 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, Mark Bernhardt, Jim Hetland 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.
- 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:**

Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13