

There is one God,  
the Father, from whom are all  
things and for whom we exist,  
and one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
through whom are all things  
and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 8:6

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

*Saturday, January 27, 2024*  
*With readings for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, January 27, 2024**

(with scripture readings for the 4th Sunday after the Epiphany)

**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.

LBW – green hymnal    WOV – blue hymnal

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

**C** O Mighty God, you once revealed yourself to your people on Mt. Sinai, in fire and thunder and cloud, as you gave your Ten Commandments;

**P** AND OF THE SON:

**C** O Jesus, our Lord and God, you made your divine power manifest by changing water into wine, healing the sick, and teaching the people with power and authority;

**P** AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

**C** O Divine Spirit, when Jesus was baptized, you came upon Him in the form of a dove. Come upon us now, in the speaking of your Word.  
AMEN!

**OPENING SONG:** “Be Thou My Vision”

**WOV 776**

**WE CONFESS**

**P** Let us confess our sin and griefs, and hear the comfort of the Lord.

**C** If you revealed only your power and your law to us, O Lord, we would be undone. Like the Israelites who trembled with fear at Mt. Sinai, and like the disciple Peter, who upon seeing your Power over nature, cried out, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”, we too would be reduced to fear and trembling, guilt and hopelessness. We confess that we have not and cannot live up to your righteous and good laws, and that we cannot stand before your almighty power.

**WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION**

**P** Jesus reveals himself to us most completely, not through laws, commandments, and displays of awesome power, but through lowliness and humility. He came to John the Baptist to be baptized, though he didn't need to at all. By doing so, he showed that he is not ashamed to be associated with sinners. Indeed, he loves sinners, and wants to come into their lives and be their friend. Jesus loves us sinners. In His name, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C** And also with you!

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you know the perilous choices we are prone to make that fall short of your desire for human faithfulness and obedience. Without you, our fragile nature cannot survive. Support us with your Word of truth, that we may grow in faith in the midst of our trials. 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**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

<sup>15</sup>“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers — it is to him you shall listen — <sup>16</sup>just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup>And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. <sup>20</sup>But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

**PSALM 111** (Read responsively by whole verse)

p. 270

### **SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup>But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords” — <sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup>However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really

offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup>And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup>Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

**P** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## **GOSPEL**

Mark 1:21-28

<sup>21</sup>{Jesus, Simon, Andrew, James and John} went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath {Jesus} entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup>And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup>“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## **SERMON: “BEING THE EPIPHANY”**

**SONG:** “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

**WOV 752**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** Apostles' Creed

LBW p.85

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

LBW p.97

Wise and Good Heavenly Father, help us to acknowledge you as the source of all wisdom and not to lean on our own understanding. We praise your Holy name for giving us the freedom to come to you

through prayer in all matters and at all times. Your word is faithful and trustworthy so let us be guided by your steadfast ways in all we do.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, you provide for all our needs of both body and soul. Create in us a grateful heart to receive all that you provide and to praise you through meaningful worship together. Teach us to be more Christ-like in all we do that we may continue to build up your church for the sake of the world.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty Lord, you are a wise and generous God. We pray for the wisdom of our elected leaders in our community, state, and country. We ask for your guidance and continued presence with them as they make decisions concerning your people. We also pray for the well-being of our leaders and that they would be of sound mind and body so they could do their important work.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father God, you know our pain and struggles that no one else sees; you know our needs. We pray for the comfort of all your children, [especially ...] lifting them up to you that they may gain strength in the knowledge of your promise of eternal life.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW p.97

### **OFFERING**

### **CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING**

Based on the Song of Simeon, also known as the "Nunc Dimittis" (Luke 2:29-32)

**P** Lord, now you dismiss your servants in peace.

**C** Now, Lord, knowing your promises, we can depart in peace; and one day, we can depart this world in peace.

**P** Our eyes have seen God's salvation!

**C** "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!" We have seen Christ, with the eyes of faith.

**P** He has prepared His salvation in the sight of every people.

**C** By a star, God led Gentiles from the east to His infant son. His salvation is for all people – not just for some.

**P** God's Son is the light of the world, revealing Him to all nations.

**C** May we too be the light of the world, as Christ has called us.

**P** He is the glory of God's people Israel.

- C** We thank God for His chosen people, and for His Messiah, Jesus Christ. And we thank Him for making us, and all who believe in Jesus, His chosen people!
- P** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. AMEN.

**THE BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**CLOSING SONG:** "We All Are One in Mission"

**WOV 755**

- P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
- C** Thanks be to God!

**Church Office:** (815)522-3886

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

**Pastor:** Thomas Thorstad, (716) 990-6244 (c)

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

**Secretary:** Dianna Wittwer (815) 378-6654, (c)

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

**Organist:** Nancy Plote

**Saturday Hosts:** Vernon & Jane Johnson

**Offering Counters:** Angie Springborn & Ashley Boyer

Attendance Last Saturday, 1/20 10 adults Attendance Sunday, 1/21: 33 adults, 10 children

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Alice Hintzsche 1/28	Becca Crain 1/30
Ryleigh Joos 1/31/14	Bob Coyle 1/31
Keith Krabbe 1/31	Carolyn Suhr 2/2
Josie Brykowski 2/3	Isabella Haag 2/4/19

**ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!**

Harold & Alice Hintzsche (Their 65<sup>th</sup>!!) 2/1/59

If I have missed your birthday or anniversary, please share with me as I would like our records to be as complete as possible. Dianna Wittwer

**FLC ANNUAL MEETING**

**Tomorrow, at 10:15 A.M.**

The Annual Report Booklets are ready. Please pick-up one per family at this time.



\*\*There were 2 reports that were accidently left out, please pick -up the single page, available in the narthex. \*\*

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Parish

A yoked ministry of

St John's Lutheran Church, Creston  
St Paul Lutheran Church, Oregon



Pastor and Congregation:

It is with joy and thanks to God that Good Shepherd Lutheran Parish invites you to the service of Ordination to the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament and to the Office of Pastor for

**Terese Whitten**

Sunday, February 18th, 2024 at 4:00 PM

St Paul Lutheran Church

114 South 5th Street

Oregon, IL 61061

A meal will follow the service in the St Paul Fellowship Hall  
Please RSVP to 815-732-2367 or to [splc61061@gmail.com](mailto:splc61061@gmail.com) by

**February 8th, 2024.**

Clergy: Process and vest in red. Please arrive by 3:30 PM

Sunday, 1/28: Our Annual Congregational Meeting after service.

Monday, 1/29: Clothes Closet open, 12-1:30pm.

Tuesday 1/30: Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; distribution., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 1/31: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Thursday 2/1: Food Truck Delivery, 8am. Help is needed!

Lydia Circle, 1pm in the Fellowship Hall, *Parables* - Chap.5.

Saturday 2/3: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 2/4: Communion Service with Sunday School, 9am.

### **NALC YOUTH EVENT**

Your youth group BELONGS at the first-ever NALC Continental Youth Gathering! We desire for all NALC youth, grades 6-12, and their adult leaders, to join us July 1-4, 2024, in Boerne, Texas!

More information will be posted on the bulletin boards soon.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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:

James Klus

Emmaline Haag

David Sanderson

Susan & Jim Colgan

Mark Bernhardt

Fallon Mitchell

- 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.

- Persecuted Christians throughout the world.

- 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 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27; Mark 1:29-39