



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

*Saturday, February 3, 2024  
With Readings for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

# *First Lutheran Church- Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, February 3, 2024**

*(with scripture readings for the 5th Sunday after 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.

## **THE SERVICE BEGINS**

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

**C** O Mighty God, you once revealed yourself to your people on Mount 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:** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

**LBW 543**

## **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**

Stand watch over your family, O Lord, that we who depend entirely on your heavenly grace may always be protected in the mighty fortress of your love; 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**

Isaiah 40:21-31

<sup>21</sup>Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup>Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

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

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-27

<sup>16</sup>For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. <sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

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

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

<sup>29</sup>Immediately {Jesus} left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. <sup>31</sup>And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup>And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon

and those who were with him searched for him, <sup>37</sup>and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

## **SERMON: “NEVER-ENDING CREATIVITY”**

**SONG:** “I Love to Tell the Story”

**LBW 390**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** Nicene Creed

LBW p.84

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Tender Lord of Mercy, you know our deepest thoughts and fears that sometimes get in the way of spending time with you; help us to remember that you alone can sustain us through whatever we are facing. Help us remember that it is through our times of trial where we can learn to trust you and be a witness to your healing power. We pray that the church would be a beacon of hope to the world with all its concerns.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious Father, we don't always seek you first in times of gratitude, trouble, or counsel. We ask today that we would be ever mindful that you are always here for us. We also pray for those who don't know you; may we be a light of hope to them through our prayers, words, and deeds. We ask that you would pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that we may know what we are to pray at all times and in all situations.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we know that there are countless people who live among us that feel lonely or uncared for in this world. We pray, as your church, that we would intentionally work to find them through our ministries. Let us be your hands and feet in the world, to serve others as you would have us do.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father God, we pray for those who are sick, hospitalized, preparing for surgery, or suffering in any way [especially ...] that they would be consoled and strengthened to endure through their faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. We also pray for their loved ones that they find comfort through you.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## **OFFERING**

### **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.91

#### **COMMUNION**

#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Isaiah said of old, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring good news."

**C** People of God, today this prophecy has been fulfilled in your hearing.

**C** Amen!

#### **THE BENEDICTION**

#### **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, 1/27: 6

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

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

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

Host: Jack & Josh Sunderlage

Last Sunday, 1/28 51adults /10 children

### **BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Carolyn Suhr 2/2      Josie Brykowski 2/3      Isabella Haag 2/4/19

Elaine Mitchell 2/6      Oscar Swan 2/10      Jim Suhr 2/10

Pastor Thomas Thorstad 2/12

### **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!**

Harold & Alice Hintzsche      2/1/59

Ray & Connie Schauer      2/6/14

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Parish

A yoked ministry of

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



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sunday 2/4: Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee.  
Adult Forum, 10:15am.

Tuesday 2/6: Food Pantry Set-up, 9:30-11am; dist., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 2/7: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Saturday 2/10: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 2/11: Worship Service, 9am with Sunday School to follow.

Ash Wednesday 2/14: Service with Imposition of ashes, 6:30pm

## **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! Reservation deadline is April 15, 2024.

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
Roger Bauer (back issues)	Those anticipating surgery
- 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:**

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6;  
Mark 9:2-9