



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

*Saturday, March 23, 2024  
With Readings for Palm Sunday*

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**Saturday, March 23, 2024**

**(with scripture readings for Palm Sunday)**

WELCOME! We hope that this service will be a blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down your pew. As it's passed back to you, remove the completed sheet and place it in the offering plate after noting those sharing your pew.

## **\*THE INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen**

**OPENING SONG:** "All Glory, Laud and Honor" (vv. 1,3,5) **LBW 108**

## **WE CONFESS**

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

**C** Lord Jesus Christ, when you entered Jerusalem, the crowds welcomed you with joy and praised you with loud "Hosannas!" But only five days later, the crowds despised and rejected you, demanding that you be crucified. We too are fickle in our love for you. We ask your forgiveness and mercy for all the times we have turned away from you. Help us, we pray, by your Holy Spirit, at all times to welcome your word; at all times, to welcome You. Amen

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

**P** When Jesus Christ came to Jerusalem, the city wasn't truly prepared to receive him. But Jesus came anyway! That's the good news of forgiveness and salvation. No matter how unprepared we are; no matter that we're not ready or worthy; Jesus comes anyway. He doesn't despise or reject us on account of our sin. He comes into our lives and saves us from our sin, no matter what it costs him. The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C** And also with you.

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and everlasting God, you have sent your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross, that all of humanity should follow the example of his great humility. Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience and also be made partakers of his

resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Zechariah 9:9-12

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup>I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

**PSALM 118:19-29** (*responsively by half verse*)

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**SECOND READING**

Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**GOSPEL**

Mark 14:1-15:47

**SERMON: "BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE"**

**HYMN:** "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

**LBW 479**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Gracious Humble Father, as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, may we remember that he came to offer an eternal kingdom. We pray that you would prepare our hearts and minds as we enter this Holy Week, commemorating his last week here on

earth. Let it restore our faith in you and see how we are to model Jesus' servant heart for others.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray that your church remain active in making disciples. We know it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we are commissioned to do your work. Lord, guard our hearts against complacency and worldly goals, that we may intentionally focus on your will to make disciples of all nations. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Precious Savior, we pray that our worship would glorify you through songs that are rooted in faith and filled with your divine truth. May the message of the Gospel teach and inspire others to sing your praises throughout all times.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father God, we pray for your healing hand to be upon those who are sick or struggling in any way, [especially ...]. May they feel your loving presence and bear witness to rest and faith in you. We ask that you guard our hearts and minds against wavering faith, but remain strong in knowing we have eternal life through Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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**OFFERING**

**THE CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

C Hosanna in the highest!

P Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C For His mercy endures forever.

**CLOSING SONG: "Lift High the Cross"**

**LBW 377**

P May God be merciful to us and bless us, as we enter this holy week.

C May God be merciful to us and bless us.

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

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

**Pastor:** Dr. 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)

**Pianist:** Nancy Plote

**Hosts:** Vernon & Jane Johnson **Offering Counters:** Susan Wilson & Lisa Coyle

Attendance Saturday, 3/16: 18 adults

Attendance: Sunday, 3/17: 46 adults 15 children

Lenten Service: 3/20:21 adults 4 children

## **BIRTHDAYS!**

Ryan Block 3/23

Colleen Cerutti 3/23

Aiden Atkinson 3/24/2010

Justin Mielke 3/24

Drew Peterson 3/25

Shelby (Mech) Lahey3/30

## **ANNIVERSARIES!**

Gary & Peggy Steinhorst

3/24



## **EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN**

Did you forget to order your Easter Memorial Garden Lily? There are only 10 plants available for purchase. Lilies are \$11 each. Order forms are in the narthex.



## **EASTER BREAKFAST – PLEASE RSVP!**

Easter Breakfast will be at 8am, between the two Easter services - 7am Sunrise and 9:30am Festival. An RSVP isn't necessary, however, to help us prepare for the breakfast, please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

## **HOLY WEEK PRAYER VIGIL BEGINS AFTER GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE –**

Many half-hour time slots are still left offering you private time in the sanctuary for prayer and reflection. Devotional materials will be provided. Sign up in the narthex at the Prayer Vigil cross to reserve your time slot. Note: There is no Saturday service March 30 to accommodate the Prayer Vigil – we encourage you to participate.

### **HOLY WEEK PRAYER VIGIL**

The Prayer Vigil will be available again this year. The vigil will begin Friday, 8:30pm - 10:30pm. Then resume on Saturday at 6:00am and conclude at 2:00pm. We do appreciate all who take the time to participate in the prayer vigil. It is a quiet reflection time with God in our sanctuary.

**Note: There will be no Saturday service on March 30th.**

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

**Maundy Thursday, 3/28 at 7pm**

**Good Friday, 3/29 at 7pm**

**EASTER March 31:**

**7AM** Easter Sunrise Service

**8AM** Breakfast – **RSVP for breakfast**, sign is in the Narthex.

**9:30AM** Easter Festival Communion Service

### **TEXT ALERT SYSTEM**

The church council has implemented a Text alert system to keep you informed about important notifications and updates regarding our church activities and events.

If you would like to stay in the loop and receive valuable alerts, simply text message your FIRST and LAST name to 877-726-5086. Once received, we will promptly add your phone number to our contact list.

Stay connected with us by joining this convenient service and never miss out on any important information again!

### **ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, CRESTON, IL**

Kumla supper will be a fundraiser for the church on April 6, 2024. This is a drive thru ONLY.

Reserve a ticket by calling St. John's church office at (815)384-3720. There is more information on the narthex bulletin board.

### **KIRKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY TEA PARTY**

Join us for a tea party at FLC on Saturday, April 20 from 1:00-3:00pm. Tickets are \$10 each. Carolyn Law of Carolyn Law Antiques will offer a presentation titled "Taking Tea in Style: Silver and Porcelain for the Tea Table". Please visit or call the library for tickets.

WNALC Gathering  
Katie Luther  
Led the Way

**Saturday, April 13**  
**10 am — 2 pm**

New Life Lutheran Church  
702 W. Lynn Blvd.  
Sterling, IL

The life & times of Katie Luther  
by  
Pastor Terese Whitten

Lunch Provided

To keep costs low we asking each church  
to donate:

Immanuel Lutheran— Breads for Coffee

St. Paul—Casserole/main dish

St. John's — salads

First Lutheran—desserts

Please RSVP with # attending to  
Sandy Strohecker @ 815/441-4128  
by April 6 so she can let churches  
know how many to plan for

Donations

This year we are collecting  
Bibles & Diapers

Gently used Bibles, Devotionals  
lg. print/children's Bibles

(Please take a moment to write a short note  
in each Bible)

All sizes of diapers accepted

Sam's Member Mark Diapers OR by the  
case type of diapers are the best to buy

A monetary donation can also be  
made & items can be purchased in  
bulk at a cheaper rate



Sunday 3/24: Join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee after the service!

Monday 3/25: Clothes Closet Open 12 -1:30pm.

Tuesday 3/26: Food Pantry set-up, 9:30-11am; dist. 12-2pm.

Thursday 3/28: Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 7pm.

Friday 3/29: Good Friday Service, 7pm. Prayer Vigil will begin after the service and will conclude on Saturday at 2pm.

Saturday 3/30 NO Worship Service.

Sunday 3/31: Easter Sunrise Service, 7am; Breakfast, 8am;  
Easter Festival Communion Service, 9:30am.

### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- Bill Byers, Jane Johnson's brother needs prayer.
- Nathan Wrobel, Louie Mielke's son-in-law, needs intense prayers.
- Michelle Bruning is having health issues.
- All those who are suffering physical or mental illness, and their families, caregivers, and medical teams, especially:

Matt Johnson

James Klus

Emmaline Haag

David Sanderson

- All those who are anticipating surgery or healing from 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.