

For by grace
you have been saved
through faith.
And this is not
your own doing;
it is the gift of God.



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

*Saturday, March 9, 2024
With Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent*

First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First

Saturday, March 9, 2024

(with scripture readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent)

WELCOME! We hope that this service will be a blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down your pew. Place this form in the offering plate when it is passed.

THE SERVICE BEGINS

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

C O Loving God, you gave your only Son to die for us, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life;

P AND OF THE SON:

C O Jesus, our Lord, you humbled yourself, and became obedient unto death - even the death of the cross;

P AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

C O Holy Spirit, guide us into all truth, and remind us of everything Jesus has taught us. AMEN!

OPENING SONG: “Lift High the Cross”

LBW 377

WE CONFESS

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

C O Lord, we have often given in to temptation. We have often been weak under pressure, and because of fear or flattery, we have disobeyed you. We ask you of your great mercy, to forgive us, to make us whole, to draw us near to you, and to strengthen us for the next time we are tempted.

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

P Our savior is able to sympathize with our weakness, for He too was tempted by the devil. In the wilderness, Satan encouraged Jesus to use his power for himself, instead of for others. And when He was dying, some tempted Him to come down off the cross. Had He given in, we would have been lost! But He prayed, “Father, not my will, but Thine be done.” And thus strengthened, He gave himself into death for our sins. In His name, I declare to you that Jesus Christ has made full satisfaction for all your sins. Your guilt is removed. You are clean and pure, and standing in the presence of God. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, grant that we, who for our evil deeds worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of your grace may mercifully be relieved; 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:

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

P The Word of our Lord

C Thanks be to God

PSALM 107:1-9 (Read responsively by half verse)

p.267-268

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have

been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P The Word of our Lord **C** Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

¹⁴{Jesus said to Nicodemus,} “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

P The Gospel of our Lord **C** Thanks be to God

SERMON: “THE SERPENT OF DEATH”

SONG: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

LBW 439

APOSTLES’ CREED

LBW p. 85

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LBW p. 97

Gracious Father, help us remember that we were created in Christ Jesus to do good works and that it is by your grace we are saved through faith and not of our own merit; grant us the knowledge and wisdom to understand this is a gift of God. We also pray that we would continue to follow your ways and not the ways of the world.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we are thankful that we are free to come with confidence into your presence and share in the promise we have in Christ as members of your holy church. We pray that we may remain holy, blameless, and covered with your love, so we may continue your work. Ensure that we would be humble servants, taking no credit for the ways in which you lead us to care for the world.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father God, watch over our students and teachers as they continue to work together to gain knowledge. We also pray that through their knowledge, they may seek to understand your ways and your will. We pray for all students during their studies at home or away at school. Inspire all of us to be constant learners, especially when it comes to learning your Holy Word.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we pray for comfort for all those who are hurting and suffering [especially ...]. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them, so they may feel the power of your healing presence and rest assured in your peace.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW p. 97

OFFERING

CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING

(Based on Psalm 51, prayed by King David, when Nathan confronted him with his sin)

L Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

L Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

L O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. AMEN.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "What Wondrous Love Is This"

LBW 385

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886
Pastor: Thomas Thorstad (716) 990-6244(c)
Secretary: Dianna Wittwer (815)378-6654(c)
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Website: www.kirklandflc.org
pastor@kirklandflc.org
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Hosts: Chuck Huey & Lynne Peterson
Attendance Saturday, 3/2: 12 adults 1 child
Lenten Service: 3/6:20 adults 5 children

Offering Counters: Suan Wilson & Lisa Coyle
Attendance: Sunday, 3/3: 33 adults 8 children

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!

Russ Lacefield 3/12 Brayden Boyer 3/15/15

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!!

Demetrius & Rachel Ash 3/14/2010

Congratulations to Vernon & Jane Johnson on celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary (3/7/1964)!

If I have missed a birthday or anniversary, please let me know –
Dianna.

NEW JANITOR HAS BEEN HIRED

Mandy Clark started as our janitor on March 4.

Lenten Bible Study: Journey Through Lent: Exploring Biblical Themes

This bible study will be hosted online, and anyone is welcome to join. It will be a Bible study series led by various multi-denominational pastors from across the USA. Together, we will delve into the rich tapestry of Lenten themes, growing in faith and understanding. There are only 3 more sessions, at 7 PM CT and will continue through March 25, 2024. To register you can speak with Pastor Tom, or you can visit the following link: <https://swiy.co/lentbiblestudy2024>

LENTEN SCHEDULE

This Lenten schedule runs each Wed., Feb. 21-through March 20.

5:45pm – Lenten Supper

6:30pm –Midweek Lenten Service

The theme for all the Lenten services will be from the Sermon on the Mount.

LENTEN MEAL SCHEDULE

Mar. 13 Sunday School

Mar. 20 Church Men

Sloppy Joes

Pork chops



CHOIR – WILL YOU JOIN US!

Please consider singing in the Easter Choir, which will sing on Good Friday and at the 9:30 service on Easter Sunday. Rehearsals for the very familiar songs will be after the Wednesday Lenten Services on March 13th and 20th, at approximately 7:15 pm.

The congregation so appreciates the extra music, please join us. See you in the choir loft!

HOLY WEEK PRAYER VIGIL

The Prayer Vigil will be available again this year, information will be shared soon. 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

9:30AM Easter Festival Communion Service

Easter Lily Memorial Garden orders are due by March 17th.

The lilies are \$11. each or you may give in memory or honor of someone. The forms are available on the narthex bulletin board.

EASTER CANDY

We are now accepting candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter.

Next Week's Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:[32-34]
35-45

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday 3/10: Join us in Fellowship Hall for coffee after service.

Adult Forum, 10:30am.

Monday 3/11: Online Lenten Study, 7pm.

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

Church Council Meeting, 7pm

Wednesday 3/13: Lenten Dinner, 5:45pm; Lenten Service, 6:30pm.

Saturday 3/16: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 3/17: Communion Service with Sunday School, 9am.

Newsletter items due. Memorial garden deadline.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- "Bo" Beach, father of Ashley Loomis, is in hospice care in TN.
- Michelle Bruning is still 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.

Save The Date

Spring Women's Gathering

The northern churches in the *Great Rivers Mission District*

Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

New Life Lutheran Church 702 W Lynn BLVD

Sterling IL