



Lift up  
the light  
of your face  
upon us,  
O Lord!

Psalm 4:6

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

*Saturday, April 13, 2024  
With readings for the Third Sunday of Easter*

# *First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First*

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**

*(with scripture readings for the 3rd Sunday of Easter)*

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. Then after worship, you're encouraged to introduce yourself to anyone you haven't met.

## **THE SERVICE BEGINS**

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

**C** O Mighty God, you raised your Son from the grave on the third day, defeating the power of death forever!

**P** AND OF THE SON:

**C** O Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior, we praise you for your glorious resurrection victory, and, like the disciple Thomas, we confess you as our Lord and God!

**P** AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

**C** O Spirit of power and might, guide us by your Word, that we may know the Lord, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings.

**All: AMEN!**

**OPENING SONG:** "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

**LBW 158**

## **WE CONFESS**

**P** Let us confess our sins, and hear the forgiveness of God.

**C** Like the apostle Peter, O Lord, our faith has sometimes wavered. There are days when we confess by our words and our lives that "You are the Christ, the son of the living God!" There are days when we are ready to walk on water with you. But then have come also those days when we have denied you by our words and our lives. Forgive us, Lord! Restore us to fellowship with you and one another!

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

**P** When Jesus Christ arose triumphant from the grave, he did not come back to take revenge on those who had persecuted him, nor on those who had disappointed him. He came to restore them. To the disciples, huddled together in a locked room, He came and said, "Peace be with you." To the people of Jerusalem, he sent his

apostles with a message of mercy and forgiveness. To Peter, who had denied Him three times, He gave the chance to confess Him three times. And He restored Peter to his call as a servant and apostle in His kingdom, saying to him, "Feed my lambs." These same words of restoration are for you! All your sins are forgiven. Come, be an apostle in Christ's kingdom! His peace be with you!

**C** And also with you.

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you raised up this fallen world. Teach us whom you have rescued from endless death to have the fullness of eternal joy, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 3:11-21

<sup>11</sup>While {the lame man who had been healed} clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup>And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And his name — by faith in his name — has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. <sup>17</sup>And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup>that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

**P** The Word of our Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

**PSALM 4** (Read responsively by half verse)

p.216

## SECOND READING

1 John 2:3-17

<sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we have come to know him, if we obey his commandments. <sup>4</sup> Whoever says, "I have come to know him," but does not obey his commandments is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; <sup>5</sup> but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup> whoever says, "I abide in him," ought to walk in the same way as he walked.

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word that you have heard. <sup>8</sup> Yet I am writing you a new commandment that is true in him and in you, because<sup>[a]</sup> the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. <sup>9</sup> Whoever says, "I am in the light," while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. <sup>10</sup> Whoever loves a brother or sister abides in the light, and in such a person<sup>[b]</sup> there is no cause for stumbling. <sup>11</sup> But whoever hates a brother or sister is in the darkness, walks in the darkness, and does not know the way to go, because the darkness has brought on blindness.

<sup>12</sup> I am writing to you, little children,  
because your sins are forgiven on account of his name.

<sup>13</sup> I am writing to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.  
I am writing to you, young people,  
because you have conquered the evil one.

<sup>14</sup> I write to you, children,  
because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young people,  
because you are strong  
and the word of God abides in you,  
and you have overcome the evil one.

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world, <sup>16</sup> for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world and its desire<sup>[c]</sup> are passing away, but those who do the will of God abide forever.

## GOSPEL

Luke 24:36-49

<sup>36</sup>As {the disciples} were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" <sup>37</sup>But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate before them. <sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

**P** The Gospel of our Lord

**C** Thanks be to God

## SERMON: "SACRIFICE OUR FREEDOM"

**SONG:** "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

**LBW 352**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** - Apostles' Creed

p.65

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

p.65

O Lord, open our eyes that we might see your power and glory. Encourage us to be helpers to the physically or spiritually blind, so all might come to see the goodness of your love. Help us all to see the love of God for us in Christ Jesus.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Holy God, you work miracles every day. Sometimes those miracles are profound and defy logic and other times they are simple answers to prayers expressed in faith. Give us better understanding of your ways so we would see the every-day-miracles you perform around us. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, pour out your Holy Spirit on the Church of Christ which is his precious bride. Give to your people the will to follow the Good Shepherd in word and deed, acting in kindness and trusting in his mercy in our lives and in the life of the church. Send us out into the world you love to make disciples of all nations.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, there are so many people around the world who are suffering from disease, hunger, poverty, or attacks from an enemy. Grant us strength and courage in the face of such trials. Give us hope in our hearts and let us pass that hope on for the stricken and dejected. [We pray especially for ... ]

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

p.71

### **OFFERING**

### **CLOSING RESPONSIVE READING**

**L** I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.

**C** The Lord is my strength and my song; he has been my Savior.

**L** This is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

**C** Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

**L** Who among the gods is like you, O Lord? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

**C** In your mercy you led forth the people you set free; you guided them in your strength to your holy habitation.

**L** You will bring them in and plant them on the mount that is your possession.

**C** The place, O Lord, you have made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have prepared. The Lord shall reign forever and ever.

**L** 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

1. God be with you till we meet again,  
By his counsels guide, uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again,

Refrain:

Til we meet, till we meet,  
till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Til we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you til we meet again

2. God be with you till we meet again,  
Neath his wings protecting hide you,  
Daily manna still provide you,  
God be with you till we meet again,  
Refrain

3. God be with you till we meet again,  
When life's perils thick confound you,  
Put his arms unfailing round you,  
God be with you till we meet again,  
Refrain

4. God be with you till we meet again,  
Keep love's banner floating o'er you, Smite death's threat'ning waves  
before you, God be with you till we meet again,  
Refrain

**P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C** Thanks be to God!

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

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

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

**Pianist:** Nancy Plote

**Hosts:** Vernon & Jane Johnson

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

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

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

**Offering Counters:** Mary Loomis and Ashley Boyer

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!**

Connie Worden 4/13

Jill Vodden 4/17

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Val Norris and Denise Norris will be coordinating VBS this year.  
There will be information soon.

## **BAPTISMAL CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

We rejoice tomorrow as God welcomes Dominic Daniel, Addison Rose, Audrey Michelle, and Charlee Fox Boehmer, into His family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Congratulations and God's richest blessings to Dominic, Addison, Audrey, and Charlee, their dad, Eric Boehmer and baptismal sponsors, Rebecca Crain and their grandparents, John & Jo Boehmer.

Sunday 4/14: Join us after the service for a cake reception to celebrate with the newly baptized Boehmer family.

Adult Forum 10:30am.

Tuesday 4/16: Food Pantry set up, 9:30am; food dist., 12-2pm.  
Newsletter folding, 2pm.

Wednesday 4/: On-line Bible Study, 7pm.

Saturday 4/13: Communion Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 4/14: Communion Service, 9am. Sunday School to follow.

**Volunteer Appreciation Cake Reception after service. Please join us!**

## **PARISH CONCERNS**

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

- Bill Byers, Jane Johnson's brother needs prayers.
- 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

Michelle Bruning

Nathan Wrobel

- 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.
- First Lutheran's many volunteers who give countless hours to take care of all our church activities and the property.
- Persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- All affected by natural disasters.
- 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.