



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

*Saturday, April 20, 2024*  
*With readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter*

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**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

**(with scripture readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter)**

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL** who are worshipping with us today! We hope that the service will be a joy and blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register, pass it down the pew for others to register and then place it in the offering plate. 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:** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" **LBW 328**

## **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 there have also been 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.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you show those in error the light of your truth, that they may return into the way of righteousness. Grant to all who are admitted into fellowship with Christ the power to avoid all things that are contrary to the faith and to follow you according to the will of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 4:1-12

<sup>1</sup>As {Peter and John} were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup>greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup>And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup>But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. <sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead — by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there

is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

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

**PSALM 23** (Read responsively by whole verse)

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**SECOND READING**

1 John 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. <sup>19</sup>By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

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

**GOSPEL**

John 10:11-18

<sup>11</sup>{Jesus said,} “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of

my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

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

## SERMON: “GOD’S POSSIBILITY”

**SONG:** “Come, Thou Almighty King”

**LBW 522**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** Nicene Creed

LBW p.64

### THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, you call us to walk with Jesus in a life of faith and to serve our neighbor. Help us to trust in your abiding mercy and constant care as we seek to do your will in the world. Guide us to walk to the places you would have us go so your name would be praised and all people would come to know you.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Shepherding God, you are the one who watches out for your sheep and guides us gently into green pastures. Help us to hear your voice and keep us safe from all harm. When we get lost, find us and restore us to your fold. Forgive us for our wandering ways and lead us into all goodness.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, bring an end to war, violence, and injustice around the world. Soften the hearts of those in authority so they would govern with fairness and equity, looking out for those who are truly on the fringes of society. Bring a lasting peace to the earth so all humanity would work together for your kingdom.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Loving Father, we ask your tender care to be with all those who are struggling with grief, pain, confusion, or disease. Remind them of your never-failing love for them. Grant them hope in the midst of darkness. Surround them with your very real presence and bring wholeness to their bodies and spirits. [We pray especially for ... ]

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

**SHARING OF PEACE**

**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**

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**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**THE BENEDICTION**

**P** When Jesus instituted Holy Communion at the Last Supper before his crucifixion, He promised His disciples that one day they would again feast together in the kingdom of heaven.

**C** Dear Lord, keep us steadfast in faith until that day!

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

**CLOSING SONG: "Children of the Heavenly Father"**

**LBW 474**

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

**C** Thanks be to God!

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

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

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

**Pianist:** Nancy Plote

**Hosts:** Dan & Janelle Pahnke

Attendance – Saturday, 4/13:15 adults

**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 & Ashley Boyer

Sunday, 4/14: 39 adults & 8 children

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Eli Ash 4/20/13

Brayden Chastain 4/23/15

**ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!**

Mark & Cindy Stoll 4/25/2015

Brian & Ashley Mielke 4/27/2013



### **FAREWELL POTLUCK FOR PASTOR TOM & FAMILY**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have a farewell potluck after the service. BBQ pulled pork sandwiches will be the main dish. Please sign-up in the narthex. See Jean Bauer with any questions.

### **NALC GREAT RIVERS MISSION DISTRICT RETREAT**

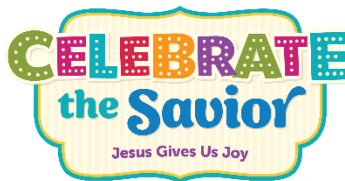
The retreat will be in Magnolia, IL on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. RSVP to Dianna or Richard by **MAY 6 TH.** The cost is \$175. per person and includes lodging and 3 meals. Pastor Brad Hales will be the keynote speaker. Please see the Narthex bulletin board for more information.

### **NALC GIFTS**

On Wednesday, 4/17, a trip to Rantoul, IL. was made by Roger & Jean Bauer. They took a collection of diapers and Bibles from the NALC Women's Gathering which was held on 4/13. The Lydia Circle created 21 Kitchen kits and Barb Evenson & Connie Worden made 38 quilts collectively. Rantoul is our local NALC Disaster Relief location. Thank you to all who donated.

### **SPRING IS HERE!**

It's time to do some yard work around the church again. We are in need of two bags of moisture control potting soil, 5 bags of Scotts topsoil Peat moss, and a rake. If you like to donate, please contact Susan Wilson (224) 629 0016.



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Val Norris and Denise Norris have agreed to direct VBS this year. More information will be provided soon.

Sunday 4/21: Join us after the service for a cake reception to honor our many volunteers. Adult Forum 10:30am.

Tuesday 4/23: Food Pantry set up, 9:30am; food dist., 12-2pm.

Wednesday 4/24: On-line Bible Study, 7pm

Saturday 4/27: Worship Service, 5:30pm.

Sunday 4/28: Worship Service, 9am. Sunday School to follow.

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>- Farewell potluck for Pastor Tom and family.



### **PARISH CONCERNS**

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:

Richard Krabbe

Bill Byers

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.
- Our church and its activities.
- 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.