

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

Saturday, April 27, 2024
With readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

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(with scripture readings for the 5th 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: "Beautiful Savior"

LBW 518

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, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the

water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

PSALM 150 (Read responsively by whole verse)

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SECOND READING

1 John 4:1-11

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

¹{Jesus said,} "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the

branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

P The Gospel of our Lord

C Thanks be to God

SERMON: **GIDEON'S SPECIAL PREACHING -** **MIKE LOWERY**

SONG: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

LBW 315

STATEMENT OF FAITH - Apostles' Creed

p.65

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

p.65

Holy God, through your son, Jesus, we abide in you. Help us to bear fruit as we seek to serve our neighbor. Grant us courage and strength so when we are pruned by the vinedresser, we not only glorify your Son, but bear even more fruit. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, who has made it possible for us to be together with you.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eternal Lord, you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end of all that exists. Bring joy to families who are welcoming babies into their lives, so they might cherish every moment together. Bring comfort to those who grieve the loss of loved ones, assuring them of the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the beauty of your creation: for budding trees and blooming flowers, for a renewal of life on this planet. May we be good stewards of all the resources you have given, especially water, land, and food. May our care for the world you created be a sign of our devotion to you.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of life, you are the source of all healing and rest. Grant your healing mercy to be with all those who struggle with pain or suffering. Surround them with your comfort. Lord, bring hope to the hopeless and provide for the needs of your people each day.

[We pray especially for ...]

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

CLOSING SONG: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" **LBW 259**

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

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Offering Counters: Mary Loomis and Ashley Boyer

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!

Ashley Mielke 4/28 Mark Brykowski 4/29 Lynne Peterson 5/4

ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!

Mark & Cindy Stoll 5/25/15

Brian & Ashley Mielke 5/27/13

CONGRATULATIONS TAYLOR HAAG

Taylor Haag will be graduating with honors on Sunday, May 5th from North Central College, Naperville, IL. with a Journalism and Communications degree. Taylor is the daughter of James & Sara Haag and granddaughter of Russ & Judy Lacefield.



APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS

A reminder to plant the hollyhock seeds that you received in memory of Ina Koehler. The instructions are on the back of the envelope.

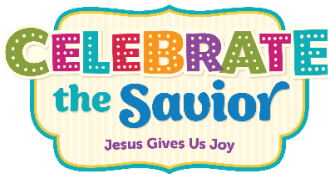
SPRING IS HERE!

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

NALC GREAT RIVERS MISSION DISTRICT RETREAT

The retreat will be in Magnolia, IL on Thursday, May 30th and Friday, May 31st. 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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The date has been set for VBS - Monday, June 17 – Friday, June 21. The time hasn't been set yet. If you are willing to help in

any way, Co-coordinators, Val Norris, and Denise Norris would appreciate it. They are especially looking for Jr high to high school age or those young at heart to help. More information will be provided soon.

KIRKLAND FOOD PANTRY RECEIVES A DONATION

The Food Pantry received a \$5000.00 donation from the Kirkland Lion's Club at their monthly meeting on Thursday. John Royalty received the check from Lion's Treasurer, Ryan Block. This was more than half of the proceeds from



the recent meat raffle held in March. We have many FLC members that are members of the Lion's Club as well.

Sunday 4/28: Join us after the service for coffee.

Monday 4/29: Clothes Closet open, 12-1:30pm.

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

Wednesday 5/1: Happy May Day!

Saturday 5/4: NO Service this week.

Sunday 5/5: Communion Service with Sunday School choir singing.



POTLUCK FOR PASTOR TOM & FAMILY

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 5th. 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.

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.

Next Week's Readings:

Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-1