



Praise him, sun and moon,  
praise him, all you shining stars!

PSALM 148:3

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

*Saturday, April 6, 2024*  
*With readings for the Second Sunday of Easter*

# *First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First*

Saturday, April 6, 2024

(with scripture readings for the Second Sunday of Easter)

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL** who are worshiping 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:** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

**LBW 543**

## **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**

Help us, almighty God, that our joyful celebration of the resurrection feast may be reflected in our daily work and conversation. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

Acts 4:32-35

<sup>32</sup>Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

**PSALM 148** (Read responsively by whole verse)

p. 288

### **SECOND READING**

1 John 1:1-2:2

<sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — <sup>2</sup>the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us — <sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. <sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

<sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

## **GOSPEL**

John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." <sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." <sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this

book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

## SERMON: "CONFESS AND LIVE NEW"

**SONG:** "I Love to Tell the Story"

**LBW 390**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH:** Nicene Creed

LBW p.64

### THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Holy God, like your first apostles, inspire us to go into the world with the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may have the words to speak of your saving grace to all who are lost, alone, or hopeless. May we share Christ with all whom we meet so the world will be transformed by your love.

*Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Lord God, you are the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. May we always put our complete trust in your ways. We ask that you would bring healing and wholeness to all those who are hurting this day, [especially....] so they may know their lives are in your eternal hands.

*Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, you know our fears and concerns. Grant us your grace in times of anxiety and worry. Help us to cast all our cares upon you. Give us your peace that passes all human understanding, especially when we struggle with difficult situations in our lives.

*Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Loving Lord, you are the source of all creation. You put the heavens and earth in their proper place. Bring warmth to the earth as seeds are planted and bring rain to water the ground. Provide those who work the soil with the tools and resources they need so a bountiful harvest may be reaped in the months to come.

*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**

LBW p.71

**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: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"**

**LBW 221**

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

**C** Thanks be to God!

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

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

**Pastor:** Tom 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:** Richard & Peggy Wince

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

**Attendance Easter Sunrise 3/31:** 34adults 8 children

**Attendance Easter Festival Sunday, 3/31:** 36 adults 7 children

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!!!**

Debi Hetland 4/10

Jim Hetland

4/11

Connie Worden 4/13

Jill Vodden

4/17

**ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS!!**

Marvin & Wanda Bernhardy 4/8/56

James & Mary Loomis 4/9/83

Lenny & Sue Peterson 4/10/76



**THANK YOU FROM JAMES KLUS**

“I’m doing okay, still taking chemo. Please tell the congregation **thank you** for their thoughts and prayers. I can never have enough prayers.”



**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.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN LILIES**

Anyone who purchased a lily, please save the foil liner on the bottom as they can be used for our Christmas Memorial Garden poinsettias. The greenhouse charges for the foils. Please give the foils to Jean or place them in the office.

Sunday 4/7: Join us after the service for coffee and fellowship.

Adult Forum 10:30am.

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

Church Council, 7pm.

Wednesday 4/10: On-line Bible Study resumes, 7pm

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

Sunday 4/14: Worship Service with four baptisms, 9am.

Sunday School to follow.

### **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.
- 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.