

**WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN!**  
**“Worshiping Christ and Serving our Neighbor”**  
**March 23 & 24, 2024 – Palm Sunday (Sunday of the Passion)**  
**w/Rite of Confirmation (Affirmation of Baptism)**  
**5:30 pm & 8:00 am Traditional**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**(Please stand) Order of Service (LBW pg 57)**

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P:** Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

**P:** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**Processional Hymn:**

**“I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry” (WOV #770)**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

(Kyrie)

**P:** In peace, let us pray. . .

**C: Lord, have mercy (x4).....**

**Amen**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**First Lesson: (You may be seated )**

**Zechariah 9:9-12**

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm (Read responsively)**

**Psalm 118:19-29**

**Second Lesson:**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Children’s Message:**

**1) Baptism – Claire Michael Diemer  
2) Affirmation of Baptism**

*(Please stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation (pg. 62)**

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> chapters

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel/SERMON:**

**Mark 14:1 – 15:47**

P: The Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Hymn: *(Please stand)***

**“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (#108)**

**NICENE CREED**

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**Prayers:**

P: Let us pray...

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**The OFFERING (*You may be seated*)**

**5:30 pm:**

**8:00 am: Choir**

**“With Waving Palms and Shouts of Praise” (Keith Christopher)**

***(Please stand)*** Offertory

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary...

Sanctus (WOV #710 refrain) – Pastor once, then congregation once

P: One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless, and we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

**C: One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless, and we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Blessing of Elements)**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,

saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

**Communion Hymns:**

**“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” (#487)  
“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” (#98)  
“O Savior, Precious Savior” (#514)**

***(Please stand)***

P: The body and blood of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace & lead you into eternal life

**C: Amen**

P: Let us pray

**C: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen**

**Hymn:**

**“Lift High the Cross” (#377)**

**Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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**Stewardship for:**

**Saturday, March 23 – 5:30 pm**

Keyboard/Organist.....Sandy Freeston  
Ushers.....VOLUNTEER  
Greeter.....  
Lector.....PASTOR  
Acolyte.....Gabriela Krueger  
Communion Asst.....Nancy LoPiccalo  
Altar Guild.....Jim & Shirley Onken

**Sunday, March 24 – 8:00 am**

Organist/Pianist.....Sandy Erickson  
Ushers.....Jim & Patti Drengwitz  
Greeter(s).....Steve Rapp Family  
Lector.....Chris Johnson  
Acolyte.....Brenna Jordan  
Communion Asst.....Chris Johnson / Diana Alvey  
Altar Guild.....Marlon Eilts

**Sunday, March 24 – 10:30 am**

Ushers.....VOLUNTEER  
Greeters.....Marcie Trainor  
Lector.....Kathy Weber  
Acolyte.....Trinity Smith  
Communion Asst.....Kathy Weber / Bria Sancken  
Altar Guild.....Kathy Weber

**WELCOME VISITORS! Please sign our guest book located in the Narthex, including a COMPLETE mailing address, so that we may recognize your visit with us! Thank you!**

**Please continue to pray for:** Robbie Becker, Phyllis Bradley, Ron Cox, Al Fahsbender, Kerry Foster, Terri Heins, Shelly Hodgson, Jim Jones, Cindy Rodriguez, Cheryl Weber, Stephen Weber, Cindi Arnold, John Clardy, Joshua Durbin, Betty Edwards, Katy Edwards, Katherine Harding, Jerry Jones, Joni Koch, Bill Liptak, Owen Lyons, Ariel Mattingly, Jakob Miller, Rochelle Nolan, Michael O'Shea, Chris Ross, Anita Sands, Gail Shaffer, Kathy Telford, Dave Tharp, John Turner, Carol Wilson, John Winchester, & Tiffany Wubben. **CHILDREN**: Elliot Buchheit, Able Fuchs, Gabriela Krueger, Lucy McKinley, & Jalene Woolford

**We pray** for all families within our congregation who are struggling in any way at this time.

**Prayer List**...please contact the office if you wish to have a name added **AND** when someone's name can be removed. THANK YOU!!!

**Thank you for sponsoring our Altar Flowers:** Jim & Vicki Day in honor of Confirmands; Dawn Graves in honor of Larry's birthday on 3/22.

**Thank you for sponsoring our Box Cast Livestream Broadcast:** Shirley Trainor in honor of Amanda Krueger's birthday.

**Altar Flowers and Broadcast Sponsorships**...Please review the **sign-up sheets** on the board in the Narthex for those weekends you sponsored (**or would like to sponsor**) the **\$20 Altar Flowers** and/or **\$30 Live Broadcast**. Checks for the flowers and/or broadcast are to be made *payable to First Lutheran Church*. Both charts are hanging up in the Narthex. Thank you!

**Writing a check?** Please make it **payable** to **“First Lutheran Church”**, then use the **memo** line to designate **specific** location (Flowers; Box Cast; Jesse’s Ride, Memorial for \_\_\_\_; etc.). **Thank you!!**

**Food Pantry**...During the month of **March**, we will be collecting: **paper products such as toilet paper, paper towels, etc., toothbrushes, toothpaste, “pop-top” canned foods, canned “complete” meals (w/meat), complete pancake mix, syrup, feminine products, laundry detergent, kid’s cereal**. Most of these items can be purchased inexpensively at the Dollar Tree. *The pantry will also accept donations of UNOPENED, NON-PERISHABLE food & supplies. Thank you for your continued support*

**Noah’s Ark Preschool** – Questions may be directed to: **Noah’s Ark at 815-842-2625** or feel free to email Mrs. Immke at [pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com](mailto:pontiacnoahsark@gmail.com).

**Euchre** – 6:30 pm on the first & third Mondays of the month. Please do not attend if you do not feel well. If there are any questions, please direct them to Fred Shirley at 815/545-9293.

**Adult Bible Study**.... Wednesdays **@ 9:30 am AND 6 pm**. **Subject:** “Revelation Apocalypse”

**Knitwits**...meets on **most** Tuesdays from 9:30 – 11 in the Munson Room. Please contact Sue Hiatt with any questions.

***Please update your e-mail (& mailing) address(es) with the church office ASAP. Thank you!!***

**Comforting Ladies (Quilters)**...Quilters will be working on Saturdays from 9 am – 5 pm and may “choose which hours they wish to work”. They will be able to come & go during that time as they wish.

**Joyful Women**...has concluded their Bible study on “Who is the Holy Spirit”. Please keep watching First Notes and the monthly newsletter for updates on a new study and the dates included. We usually complete a lesson each week and then share fellowship afterwards with a snack. Joyful Women invites all women of First Lutheran (& their friends) to join us. We would love to see new faces at any time. If you have any questions, please call Vicki Day (815/674-5420) or Sue Hiatt (815/848-7935).

**WATER MISSION INTERNATIONAL**.....Will conclude this weekend. We thank everyone for their support of this mission. (We have supported them for three years and their work is far from complete. Their mission is to build safe water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions in developing countries and disaster areas worldwide. They are a non-profit Christian-based organization that shares the love of Christ in every mission effort.

**PRAYER LIST UPDATE INFORMATION:** *In the coming weeks we will be implementing a list “clean-up”. If you wish for your person’s name to remain on the list, please contact the office to make the request. If nothing is confirmed after 3-4 weeks of their name being on the list, that name will be removed from the list. Their name can always be added again at a later date with the proper notification. Additionally, if you wish for the name to stay “long-term”, please indicate that to the office and a note will be made in the office to keep that name there. THANK YOU for your cooperation & assistance.*

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**....The March meeting of the Grief Support Group will be at 7 pm on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> @ “The Breakroom”. Please invite others to attend to help work through WHATEVER type of grief they may be experiencing. This group is non-denominational!!

**VBS Meeting**....A VBS meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Munson Room. Topics: distribution of teacher guides and materials, publicity, decorations, and supplies needed. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to attend!!

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (CONFIRMATION)**.....Please continue to pray for the ongoing learning of the five young people who are affirming their baptism today:

