

## First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary

*"Repent and be baptized,  
every one of you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ  
for the forgiveness of your sins.  
And you will receive the  
gift of the Holy Spirit."  
Acts 2:38*



*Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community*

**April 26, 2020 - 10:15 am**

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**Third Sunday of Easter**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! If you are visiting, please sign the guest book near the main door in the Narthex.

We offer a traditional service and a celebration service, a joint effort between members of both services with special music and a message. Our Sunday schedule is:

7:45 am	Traditional Service
9:00 am	Sunday School
10:15 am	Celebration Service

A.W.E. Service: We also offer a contemporary worship service on the second Wednesday of the month beginning with a light supper at 5:30 pm.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:00 am in the lounge (middle floor of the educational building – turn right out of the door by the choir loft.

Children ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: The 7th grade class meets at 9:00 am on Sundays in the catechism room next to the ladies restroom on the second floor of the Educational Building. Eighth grade class meets every other Sunday at 11:30 am in the lounge for a light lunch and class.

Nursery: Our nursery is in the church basement. The nursery is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table & a semi-private nursing area also are available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement. In the hallway, the ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for flowers for a Sunday, there is a sign up book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you may call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office or in the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP – CELEBRATION SERVICE

Praise Prelude  
Prelude

Ringing of the Bell  
Praise Song      *“How Can I Keep From Singing”*

### **Thanksgiving For Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the Thanksgiving begins.*

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The water is poured into the baptismal font.*

P: Just as God’s work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

**C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from the faucet, for rain and snow, for the Maumee River, Lake Erie, and all the smaller creeks and streams.

**C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman’s thirst with living water.

**C: We give you thanks, O God, for your salvation through water.**

P: We give you thanks for the life of the baptized, for all who worship in your name, for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen, but to whom we are bound.

**C: We give you thanks, O God for the life of all baptized.**

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus’ death through these waters; for our new birth into a life of forgiveness of sin, redemption and service; for our calling to be your people, and for being sent out as the body of Christ for the life of the world.

**C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity (+) now and forever. Amen.**

### **Baptismal Hymn – Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises sing. Love drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev’ry place and time.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev’ry age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, and justice, love, and praise.

### **Greeting and Prayer**

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

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **Announcements**

#### **FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

*This reading is the conclusion of Peter’s sermon after the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the people:

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”

<sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17** (Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 NRSV)

*I will call upon the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:11)*

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

<sup>2</sup>**The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.**

<sup>3</sup>Then I called upon the name of the LORD:  
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

<sup>10</sup>**How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things he has done for me?**

<sup>11</sup>I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the name of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>**I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.**

<sup>13</sup>Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his servants.

<sup>14</sup>**O LORD, I am your servant;  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.**

<sup>15</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.

<sup>16</sup>**I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,**

<sup>17</sup>in the courts of the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23**

*Peter's uses the image of "exile" to describe the experience of new Christians who are no longer at home in the non-Christian world. Their faith in Christ distinguishes them from their ancestors and neighbors and calls them to place their faith and hope in God.*

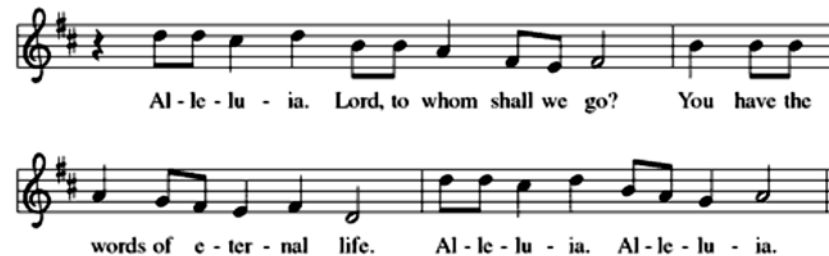
If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

<sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia Verse**



**Gospel Acclamation (spoken)**

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 24.

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

**GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35**

*The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.*

Now on that same day when Jesus had appeared to the women, two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?"

<sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

### **Gospel Response (Spoken)**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### MESSAGE

Message Song "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" No. 619 v. 5-8

Pastor Rayl

### **Nicene Creed**

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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

### **Pastoral Prayer** (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*(Please be seated)*

The Offering "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" Dorsey

"Sanctuary" (please stand)

*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true;  
With thanksgiving I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You.*

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

**C: Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

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 our thanks and praise.**

P: Remembering, therefore, Christ's salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen, amen, amen.**

P: Hear us as we pray:

**The Lord's Prayer** (*prayed by all*)

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.

**Invitation to Communion**

P: Come to the banquet. Behold the risen Christ.

**C: We come with open hearts and lives. Alleluia!**

*(Please be seated)*

**The Communion** (*distribution will be continuous*)

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*

*"All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing."*

*(When coming to receive Communion, please fill out a Communion registration card located in the pew rack and give it to the usher.)*

**Communion Hymns** - During the distribution of Communion the following hymns will be sung by the congregation:

*"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"* No. 484

*"Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness"* No. 488

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer After Communion**

P: Life-giving God, you have fed us with your word and the powerful presence of your Son. Through the meal you have assured us of your eternal love. Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all our community, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing and Dismissal**

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and empower you for discipleship. Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Christ is risen, just as he promised. Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Closing Song

*"Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"*

No. 382

Postlude

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*PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE*

**ELDERS**

Jeff Ladd, Jeff Smith

**READER**

Joanne Henningsen

**SOUND BOARD**

Dave Wilbarger

**ACOLYTES**

Emma Kalmbach, Aly Walendzak

*April 26, 2020*

*THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER*

**Known at the Table**

In many ways, the daily walk of those who follow Christ is like that of anyone else. It is filled with responsibilities to others, places to get to, work to be done. And it is punctuated by terrible losses that stop us in our tracks, as Cleopas and his companion were stopped on the road to Emmaus, looking sad and trying to understand what had happened. Much of their walk is spent talking and listening with a stranger along the way, all of them working to make sense of the senseless loss of one who was both a friend and "a prophet mighty in deed and word" (Luke 24:19).

Something happens on the road. Later, Cleopas and his friend will remark, "Were not our hearts burning within us, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" Something happens, but they only know what has happened on their walk after they are seated at table with the stranger and he takes bread, blesses it, and breaks it for them.

Many times it is only from the perspective of the table that what has happened on the road makes sense. The communion table is identical in this respect to that table in Emmaus. We gather with strangers and friends. Together, we are doing the most everyday things: returning thanks at a meal, breaking bread, eating with each other. The difference is not that Jesus is here with us and absent elsewhere; he had been on the road with those two sad disciples all along. The difference is that the Risen One reveals himself at the table. At the table we see that in spite of so much evidence to the contrary, he is not lost to us, but here. Here we are able to see that he has been with us all along and will accompany us when we get up from the table and get back on the road.