

## First St. John Lutheran Church

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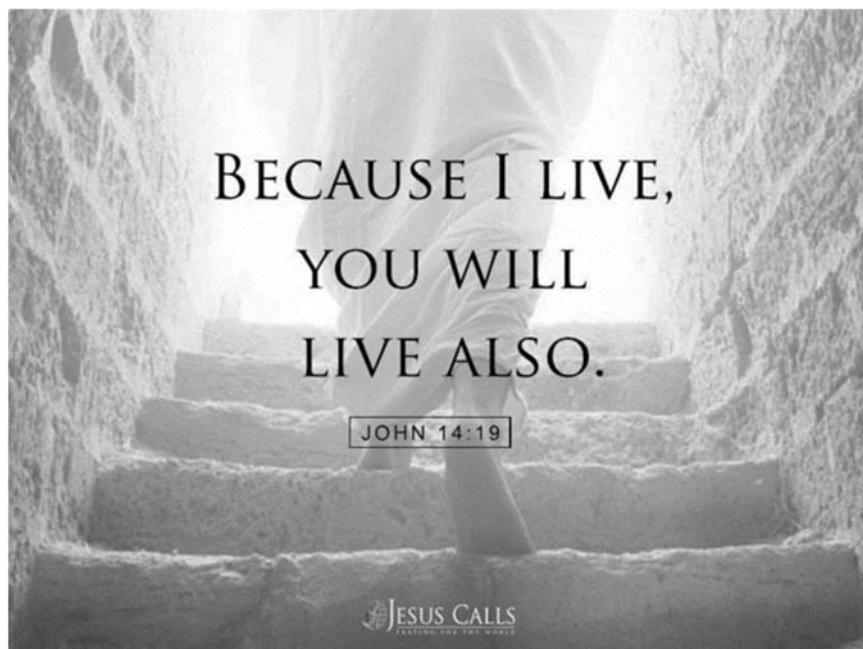
[www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



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

**May 17, 2020 - 10:15 am**

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**Sixth 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: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this service has been suspended for the time being.

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

Ring of the Bell (please stand)

Opening Song

### 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 – We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death;  
That as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life.  
And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his,  
We will all be reunited, for he lives.

In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread,  
In the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead,  
God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past;  
In the losing and winning we hold fast.

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,  
Glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;  
As it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again  
In a song that has no ending. . . . Amen.

### 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. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### Announcements

#### **FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31**

*In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.*

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him--though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 66:7-18** (Psalm 66:8-20 NRSV)

*Be joyful in God, all you lands. (Ps. 66:1)*

Bless our God, you peoples;  
make the voice of his praise to be heard,  
<sup>8</sup>**who holds our souls in life,  
and will not allow our feet to slip.**

<sup>9</sup>For you, O God, have proved us;  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>10</sup>**You brought us into the snare;  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

<sup>11</sup>You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

<sup>12</sup>**I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
and will pay you my vows, which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

<sup>13</sup>I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams;  
I will give you oxen and goats.

<sup>14</sup>**Come and listen, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.**

<sup>15</sup>I called out to him with my mouth,  
and his praise was on my tongue.

<sup>16</sup>**If I had found evil in my heart,  
the Lord would not have heard me;**

<sup>17</sup>but in truth God has heard me;  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

<sup>18</sup>**Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,  
nor withheld his love from me.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*Peter calls Christians, who may be overwhelmed by the challenges of living and working in a non-Christian world, to use their way of life and their words to witness to the power of Easter manifested to them through baptism.*

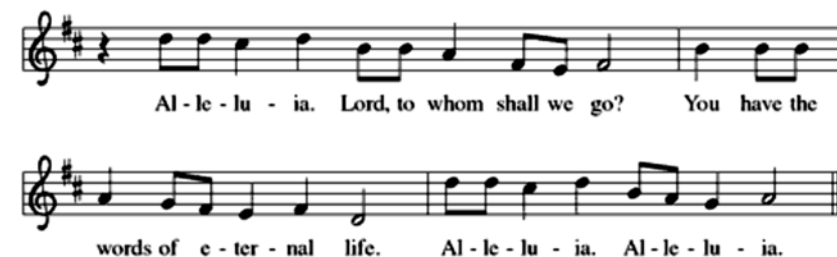
Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia Verse**

*(please stand)*



**Gospel Acclamation (spoken)**

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 14.

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

### **GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

*John is concerned for the faith of disciples who no longer have Jesus with them physically. Jesus promises they will receive the Spirit and that he will continue to reveal himself to those who love him.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE  
Message Song

Pastor Rayl

*(Please stand)*

### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

The Offering

"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: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small, but you make them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Receive these gifts and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

**C: Amen.**

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

P: Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

### **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.

### **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  
Postlude

***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Ben Hodges, Bob Hecklinger

**READER**

Sue TenEyck

**SOUND BOARD**

Don Holmes

**ACOLYTE**

Natalie Miller

## GRADUATE RECOGNITION



With the uncertainty of our church service schedule at this time, we may have to postpone our graduate recognition until a later date. But we will begin to collect our graduate's information now.

If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, please complete this form and either mail or email (office@firststjohn.com) it to the church. If you email the information, you don't need the form, unless you have scanning capability at home. Thanks!

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF GRADUATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GRADUATED FROM

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May 17, 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Resurrection Life Across the Miles

Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus moved toward people in need rather than away from them. In the gospels, Jesus touches a leper to cleanse the disease from the man's skin. He takes the hand of a girl who has died and raises her to life again. He talks to and then heals a man who lives among the tombs because his disease has pushed him to the very edge of his village. No matter what he is doing, Jesus shares his life with others, bridging the distance in order to restore and heal them.

When we hear stories from the ministry of Jesus, we who live so many centuries from all these events may sometimes feel like mere spectators of other people's good fortune. Our time is so different, and our lives are so distant from the roadways and villages of first century Galilee.

In the gospel reading for today, Jesus makes a promise that has to do with bridging the distance between his time and ours. "Because I live, you also will live," he tells the disciples. His ministry had not been merely something for spectators to admire, but had touched real people's lives. So also his resurrection life is not just a spectacle to ponder across the centuries, but a life to be shared between Christ and all those for whom he died. The hymn writer puts it well: "Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior with the Father reigns" (*LBW* 363, st. 3).

The mystery and the hope of the resurrection is that the Risen Christ reigns as he always has, by moving toward those who need him. He does not shrink back from our pain, disease, and death, but lives to bring healing and restoration in the midst of it, just as he did throughout his ministry. Because he lives, we also will live.