

First St. John Lutheran Church

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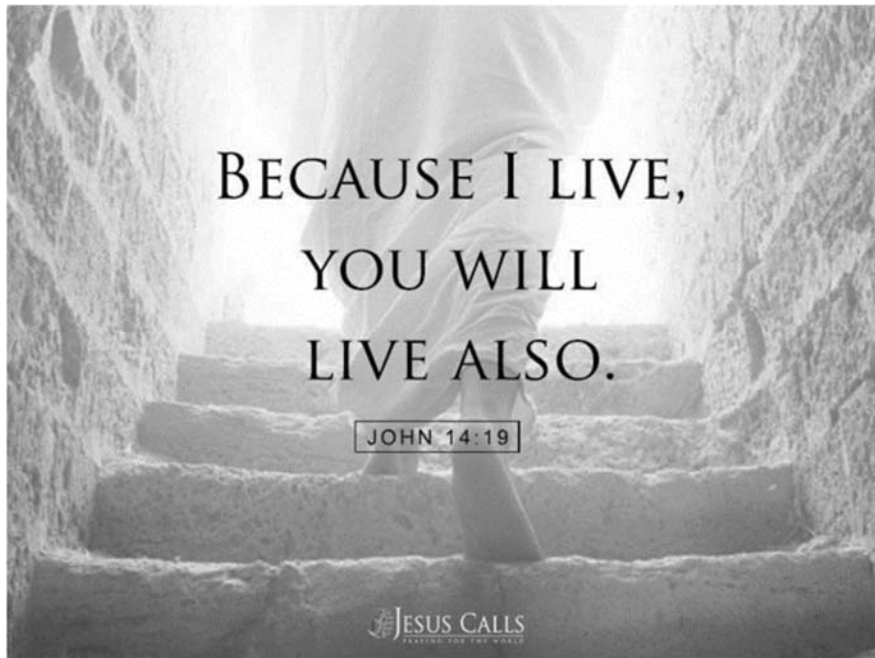
www.firststjohn.com

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 - 7:45 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 6th 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 – TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude

Ring of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Hymn

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.

²³For 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. ²⁴The 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, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From 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, ²⁷so 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. ²⁸For '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.'

²⁹Since 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. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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,
⁸**who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip.**

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

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

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

¹²**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.**

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

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

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

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

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

**¹⁸Blessed 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? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but 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; ¹⁶yet 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. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

¹⁸For 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, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who 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. ²¹And 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, ²²who 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.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse



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. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

¹⁷This 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.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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.

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

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)

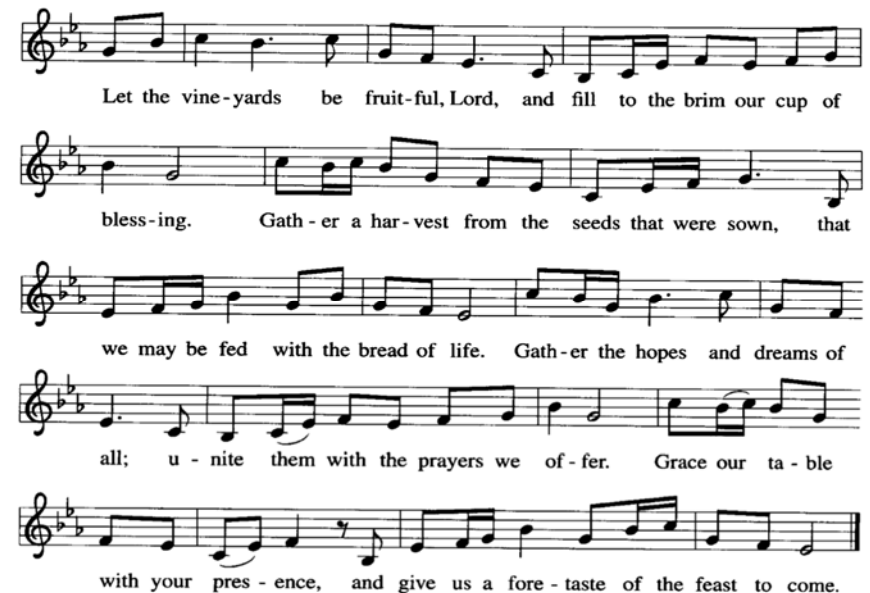
P: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

The Offering

(Please stand)

Offering Response – (Sung by the congregation)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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; please make an X with your arms across your chest."

(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:

"For the Bread Which You Have Broken" No. 494

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain 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 Hymn

Postlude

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Jeff Ladd, Jeff Smith

READER

Carol Felderman

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.