

## First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary

**June 28, 2020**

**Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! If you are visiting, please sign the guest book near the main door in the Narthex. During our summer months, we have one Sunday service at 9:00 am, and we alternate each week between our traditional and celebration service formats. Sunday School is dismissed for the summer.

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: 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.

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### *PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE*

#### ELDERS

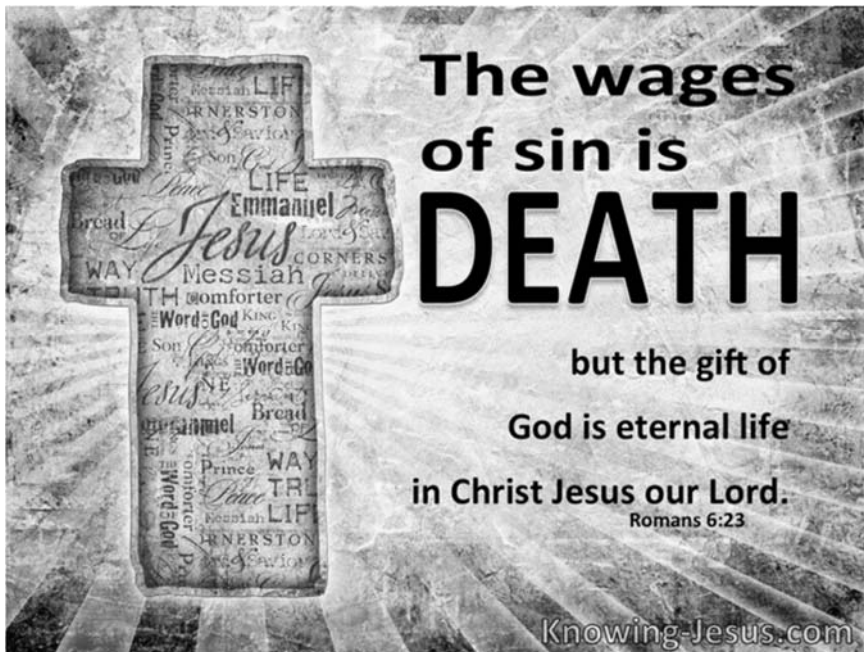
Jeff Ladd, Jeff Smith

#### SOLOIST

Annette Slater

#### SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman



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

**June 28, 2020**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP – CELEBRATION SERVICE

(Please be seated)

Praise Prelude  
Prelude

Ringling of the Bell  
Opening Song

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, as a reminder of the sign marked at baptism as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

P: Eternal God, our creator,

**C: in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for the sake of Jesus Christ, God (+) forgives you all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

### Praise Song

### Invocation

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.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### Announcements

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9**

*The prophets Hananiah and Jeremiah were at odds not just because of their differing views of upcoming events. Hananiah announces peace and restoration within two years; Jeremiah sees the path to peace as one that requires repentance--recognition of one's sins and reliance on God's forgiveness. Jeremiah knows when Hananiah's prediction does not come true, then all will know Hananiah was not sent by God.*

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18**

*Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)*

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**<sup>2</sup>For I am persuaded that your love is established forever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup>I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**"I will establish your line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all generations." "**

<sup>15</sup>Happy are the people who know the festal shout!

They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

**<sup>16</sup>They rejoice daily in your name;  
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

<sup>17</sup>For you are the glory of their strength,  
and by your favor our might is exalted.

**<sup>18</sup>Truly, the LORD is our ruler;  
the Holy One of Israel is our king.**

#### **SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23**

*Paul told the Roman Christians that in baptism they were not only made right with God through grace, but were also made free from the slavery of sin. He claims those who are accepted by God as sinners may also be used by God for righteousness.*

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

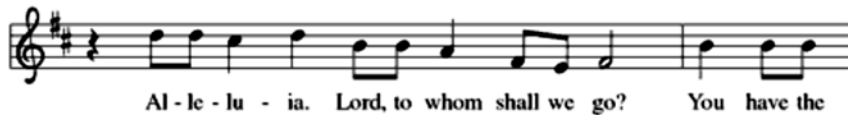
<sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia Verse



### Gospel Acclamation (spoken)

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 10.

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

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of the persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

<sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

### Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### MESSAGE

Message Song

Pastor Rayl

### 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.

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

P: Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*(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: Let us pray. Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord.

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: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

### 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, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

C: **Our Lord's body and blood, let us take together.**

*(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.)*

*(When communion is completed, please stand)*

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

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

**C: Amen.**

**The Blessing**

P: May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song

Postlude

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## 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.):

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

June 28, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Welcoming Christ

Worship, and any other time that Christians gather, is a great time to practice our welcoming skills. We can welcome newcomers, "old timers," children, and those recovering from illness. We hope we also will be welcomed by others.

Of course, God does not want us to keep all the welcoming inside the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. Our loving actions toward others are signs of God's welcome in daily life. We pray, too, that we will be welcomed by those with whom we share the good news of God's love. Jesus tells us that those who welcome us welcome him. That is, for the people we meet, we are the representatives of Jesus. What a privilege to bring Jesus into the lives of those who don't know him.

To know Jesus, it is not necessary to have lived two thousand years ago and to have personally witnessed Jesus' teaching and healing. The community of faith, gathered around word and sacrament, are Christ's representatives in this time and place. So we need to be mindful of what our words and deeds tell others about the God we worship. The smallest gesture of welcome, even a cup of cold water for those who thirst, can plant the seed that leads another person to Christ.

Keep in mind that God doesn't reach out solely through good church people, the powerful, eloquent, or well-educated. Just as Jesus came to earth in the lowliest of circumstances, the least likely individuals can bring the gift of God's love to those who seemingly have every earthly advantage.

So how are we to respond to this dual charge to welcome and be welcomed? We must seize opportunities to share God's love with others. We must also be ready to welcome the presence of Christ when he greets us in the face of another.