

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director
Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist
Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Holy Trinity Sunday

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

June 7, 2020

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Holy Trinity

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 both a traditional and celebration service, a joint effort between members of both the traditional and contemporary services with special music and a message, which we alternate during the summer months.

Sunday School & Catechism are 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: 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.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bob & Sherrie Haar

SOLOIST

Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

ORDER OF WORSHIP – TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude

Ring of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Hymn

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. Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three.

Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1--2:4a

This creation story reached its current form during or after the Babylonian exile of Israel. The writer profoundly declares faith concerning the world, human life, and God. This faith sees the world and humanity under the sovereignty of the God who redeemed Israel: it was Israel's God who was responsible for creation, not Babylon's.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1}Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.

²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 8

How exalted is your name in all the world! (Ps. 8:1)

O LORD our Lord,
how exalted is your name in all the world!

**²Out of the mouths of infants and children
your majesty is praised above the heavens.**

³You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

**⁴When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

⁵what is man that you should be mindful of him,
the son of man that you should seek him out?

**⁶You have made him but little lower than the angels;
you adorn him with glory and honor;**

⁷you give him mastery over the works of your hands;
you put all things under his feet:

**⁸all sheep and oxen,
even the wild beasts of the field,**

⁹the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

**¹⁰O LORD our Lord,
how exalted is your name in all the world!**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Paul concludes his painful letter to the troubled church at Corinth with a final appeal for these Christians to live in peace. His last words form a benediction still used in Christian liturgy today.

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

(Please stand)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Acclamation (spoken)

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 28.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them for mission in the name of the triune God.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON
Sermon Hymn

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)

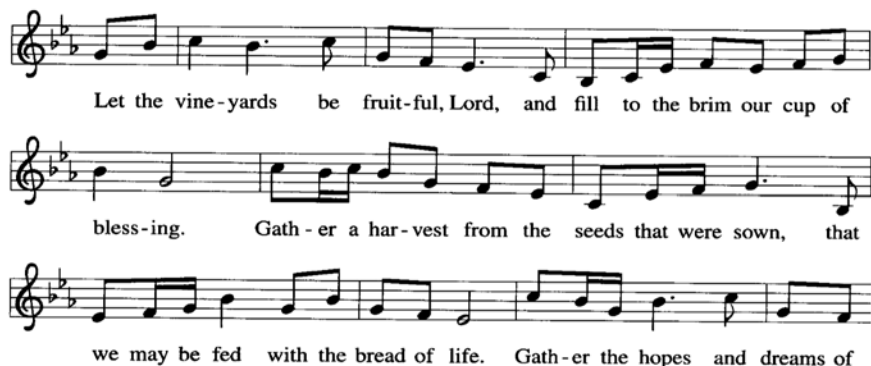
P: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

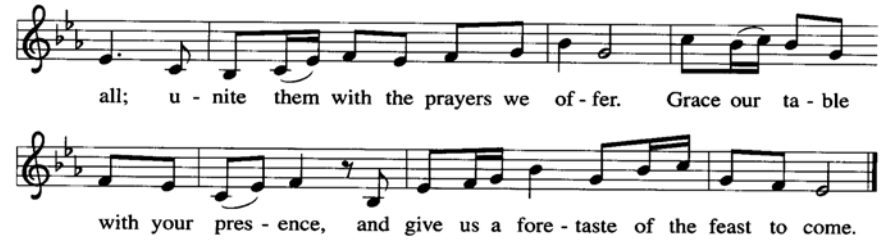
The Offering

(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: 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 Hymn

Postlude

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 7, 2020

HOLY TRINITY

Never Alone

In what do we put our faith? Whom can we trust? Sometimes it's hard to say. Doctors and scientists? Government officials and law enforcement? Friends and family? The answer is probably, "It depends." We realize that, no matter how well intentioned, these individuals are human and sometimes make mistakes. And they're not always available when we need them.

Jesus left his disciples with the assurance that they could put their trust and faith in him. As he sent them out into the world, he promised to offer more expert advice than scientists, greater protection and justice than the law, and more comfort and understanding than the dearest friend.

The disciples would need this kind of assurance to endure the hardships that lay ahead of them. In fact, Jesus had been trying to prepare them for the difficult days to come, even before his betrayal and crucifixion. Surely, as they looked back, the disciples had a better understanding of these prophetic words. They could also look back and recall Jesus' assurance that they would never be alone.

The Great Commission was Jesus' instruction to all believers, not just those present to hear the words. His words also provide reassurance. At every fork in the road, the command to share the gospel points us in the right direction. God has a plan for each of us, and has foreseen the difficult times ahead.

God wants us to know that no matter how difficult our lives become, we can trust God for guidance and comfort--even before we ask. God is also with the doctors, government officials, and family we rely on for all our earthly needs. We are never, ever alone.