

## First St. John Lutheran Church

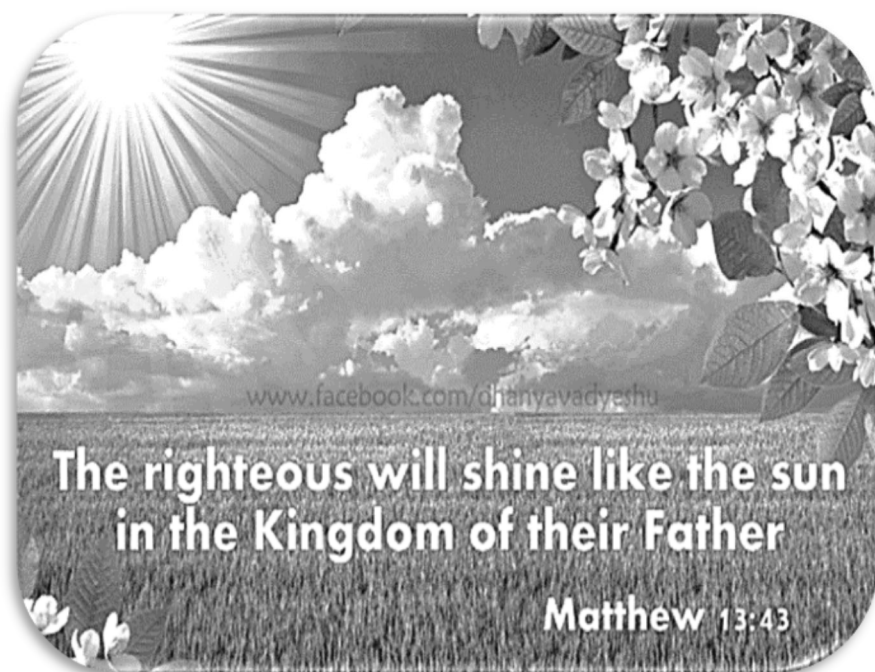
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



**July 19, 2020**

**Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Please review some of our reopening guidelines below.

Masks must be worn. We have some available to take if you don't have one. Some are cloth masks and can be taken home to wash and reuse. There are also disposable masks.

Please do not congregate in the Narthex (entrance area) either as you arrive or leave.

To minimize direct contact, we will use the outside aisles only for entry and exit. The center aisle will be used for communion, special needs, or emergency exit.

Ushers will fill the pews from the front to the back of the church and dismiss from the back to the front. Please follow their directions. We are sorry everyone cannot have their usual seat.

We will not have corporate singing or verbal liturgy responses. Dr. Tony and Annette Slater will still provide music. Liturgy and lessons will be projected on the screen. The service will be recorded and published to the website. Future plans are to "live stream" the service.

Elders will wear gloves and hand the bulletin to you when you are seated. Please do not leave your bulletin in the pew when you exit; take it home or put it in the recycling bin at the front door.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take the left set of steps down. The ladies room is at one end of the hallway, and the men's room is at the other. Return to the Narthex using the opposite set of stairs. Please, one person only in the restroom area.

Diaper Changing: A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for flowers for a Sunday, please call the church office during the week to check on availability.

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

**July 19, 2020**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude  
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Hymn "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"  
(sung by Annette Slater)

**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.  
**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,  
**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 us all our sins.  
**Amen.**

### Invocation

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

### Peace Affirmation

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

### Doxology Response (sung by Annette Slater)

*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 and evermore,  
In a song that has no ending. Amen.*

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Announcements

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8**

*Using a dramatic courtroom scene in which God is at once prosecuting attorney, witness, and judge, this prophet introduces a radical monotheism: the Lord is not one among many gods; the Lord is the only God.*

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation (sung by Annette Slater)

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
Open to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
Where love can grow and peace is understood. (Repeat)*

### Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 13.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### **GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

*Jesus has just told his disciples the parable of the sower, which compares different responses to the word to different kinds of soil in which seeds are planted. Now he tells a second parable about sowing to illustrate the coexistence of good and evil in our world.*

[Jesus] put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.

<sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.  
<sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

<sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

### Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

*"Break Now the Bread of Life"*

*(sung by Annette Slater)*

### 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.

**The Offering** (As you exit, please place your offering in the wooden church in the Narthex if you have not already done so.)

### 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.  
**Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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. Amen.

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

### **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."*

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

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Congregational Meeting**

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Please remain seated. We will proceed to the brief Congregational Meeting immediately following the service.

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

#### **ELDERS**

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

#### **SOLOIST**

Annette Slater

#### **SOUND BOARD**

Dave Wilbarger

## 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.):

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

July 19, 2020

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Practicing Patience

Have you recently been exasperated while driving in snarled traffic or waiting in a lengthy line? Do some of the losses that accompany aging frustrate you or someone you love? Are you occasionally short of patience as you parent young children or teenagers? It isn't unusual to feel your reserves of patience are low or, indeed, to feel resentful of the demands life makes on your patience.

Many North Americans live in a world of material abundance. "Stuff" fills our lives even as we are hounded by messages to *consume* more, to *have* more. Without purposefully agreeing to exchange what we hold dear--our time, resources, and good will--for an excess of things of lesser value, we often do just that, unintentionally.

In contrast to the prevailing culture of consumption, God's message comes to us today urging us instead to *be* more. Patience is required for our hope in God to be realized. Like the weeds sown among good seed in the gospel parable, evil does exist in the world. Its omnipresence in the ordinary stuff of life can deplete our patience even when we are trying to resist choosing what is easy, immediate, and everywhere.

Along with day-to-day claims on our patience, spiritual patience can sometimes seem in short supply. Why must we suffer the results of evil in the world, when we pray it should be otherwise? Why does it seem that some prayers go unanswered? Are we too ready to interpret "not now" or "not in this place" as "no" in response to prayers? The one who planted good seed and suffered the weeds models patience. This parable and the experience of everyday life tell us that patience ultimately will be rewarded. And so, as members of the body of Christ, we practice patience, hoping and trusting in God's grace, gathered for all time in God's love.