

First St. John Lutheran Church

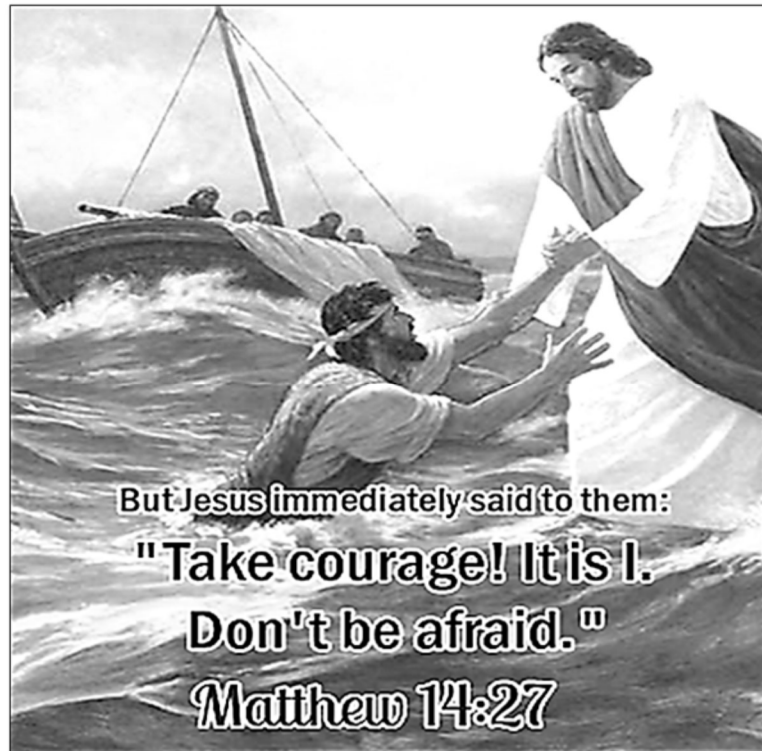
2471 Seaman Street
Toledo, Ohio 43605
419-691-7222

office@firststjohn.com

www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



August 9, 2020

Tenth 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

August 9, 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Dr. Pattin

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Hymn "We Praise You, O God" (sung by Hilary Heisman)

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 Hilary Heisman)

*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. O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

On the mountain where God appeared to Moses with signs of God's presence--earthquake, wind, and fire--Elijah is now presented with a dramatic shift in the understanding of where God is found. God is not found in these signs. Rather, God is among the people, where the will of God is being lived out.

At [Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill.¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

Paul discusses how we attain the righteousness that leads to salvation. He says one way would be to keep the law, but he has already shown that is impossible. Then, he proclaims the good news about "righteousness that comes by faith."

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (sung by Hilary Heisman)

*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 14.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. Here Matthew shows how Jesus comes to these disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their fear and doubt.

[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Message Song "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" (sung by Hilary Heisman)

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.

The Offering (As you exit, please place your offering in the plates 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.

Pastoral Prayer (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: Lord, in your mercy.
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.

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.

Closing Song "This Little Light of Mine" (sung by Hilary Heisman)
Postlude Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS: Ben Hodges, Bob Heckliner

SOLOIST: Hilary Heisman

SOUND BOARD: Dave Wilbarger

August 9, 2020

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Take Heart!

Everyone experiences challenges along life's path. A loving couple, eager to have children, suffers yet another miscarriage. A high school track star discovers she has a life-threatening heart defect and struggles to take it easy. A promising corporate manager receives a lay-off notice instead of the promotion he had been expecting. The neighborhood's favorite grandma decides she must sell her home of forty years and move into an assisted living facility.

When storms assail us, it is easy to lose heart. We yearn to understand: "Why is this happening to us?" We grieve the loss of dreams: "Will I ever feel such joy again?" We are filled with self-doubt: "What could I have done wrong?" We do battle with a sense of dread: "What's going to happen to me now?"

When Jesus' disciples were buffeted by wind and wave, Jesus stretched out his hand and reassured them with a grace-filled command: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." He came to them in their terror and restored their faith.

Jesus walks with us on our journey, too, offering comfort, strength, and hope. He takes his place beside us as we are drenched in the waters of baptism. He shadows us, step by step, as we fulfill our roles in the family of God--pointing the way, steadying us when we stumble, nourishing us, quenching our thirst. He invites to his table: "Take and eat; take and drink."

"Take heart, it is I," he announces. Fear vanishes. Sorrow fades. Forgiveness flourishes. Grace envelops us. Faith rains down on us.

However rocky our path, however weary we become, we can count on Jesus to be with us. He endured storms more violent than we can even imagine, but through the wind and waves his voice breaks through: "Take heart, it is I."