

August 16, 2020

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

With Open Arms

Jesus' disciples were eager to send her away, this pesky Canaanite woman with the demon-possessed daughter. Even Jesus seemed to rebuff the woman's pleas that he heal her child: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Her retort was immediate and sharp, however: "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Finally, Jesus relented, marveling, "Woman, great is your faith!"

What thoughts and feelings go through your mind and heart when you come to God in prayer? Do you worry that your concern might be too insignificant, unworthy of the Almighty's attention? Do you wonder whether the one who created all life really has the power to change things? Are you afraid that the Holy One will find your request audacious or your words too clumsy? Do you feel sheepish, maybe even a bit nervy, about asking God for your heart's desire because it has been so long since the two of you last spoke?

Whatever reasons you suspect God might have for rejecting you, whatever doubts you carry about prayer, be assured that the giver of all good is ready to listen to you. God's rules about who may approach the awesome throne are not our rules. Those whom we would reject, the great physician welcomes. The prayers we ourselves might ignore are answered with as much care and compassion as those we count worthy of God's consideration.

We--all of us--can approach the Most High with confidence, certain that the Compassionate One will hear us, humble in the presence of our defender's power, grateful for Yahweh's justice and mercy, dazzled by the Righteous One's grace. God will receive you with open arms.

First St. John Lutheran Church

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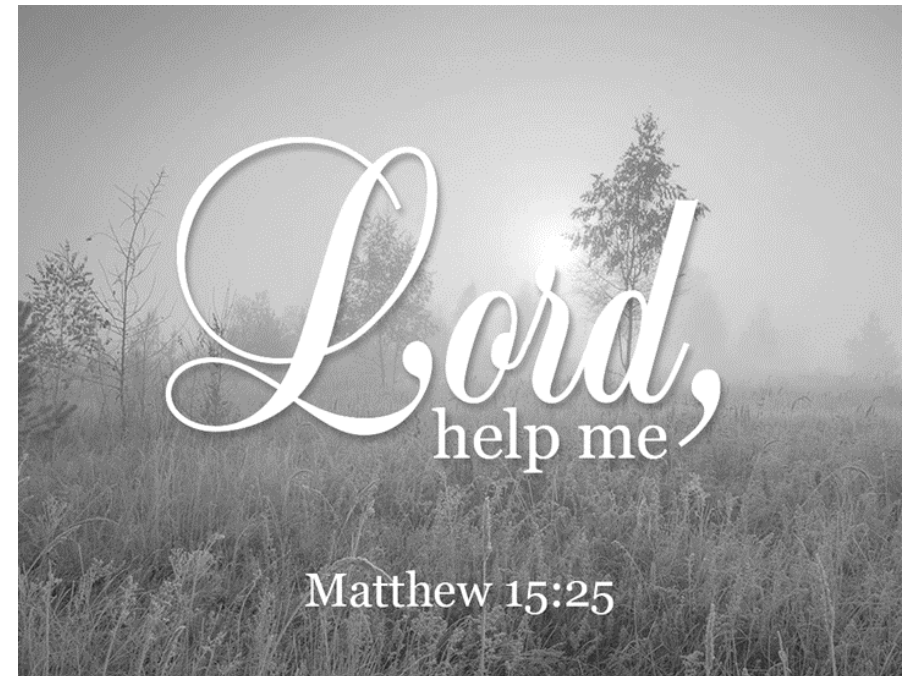
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



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

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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.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

dish soap	shampoo, child	toothbrush, child
paper towels	laundry soap	tampons
toilet paper	fabric softener sheets	sanitary pads
tissues	body lotion	band aids
deodorant	body soap	toothpaste, adult
shampoo, adult	toothbrush, adult	toothpaste, child
disposable razors		

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members. **If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month.** If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Hymn “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”
(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. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Whereas the Israelite community, defined by early legal traditions, was expected to live the righteous and obedient life, the prophet now announces that righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community. In other words, commitment to the Lord makes a person a member of God's people--not race, nationality, or any other category.

Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant--

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

**²Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn "All People That on Earth Do Dwell"
(sung by Annette Slater)

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Dick Haar, Tom Eppard

SOLOIST

Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body and blood, let us take together.

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."

Communion Hymns - During the distribution of Communion the following hymns will be sung by the soloist:

*"Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!"
"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"
"Bread of Life From Heaven"*

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.

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**"The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing."**

⁷May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

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 15
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be pagan and unclean approaches him for help.

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Sermon Hymn *"Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright"*

(sung by Annette Slater)

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 (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.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.
And also 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.