

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary

He said to them,
"Who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered and said,

*"You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God."*

Matthew 16:15-16



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

August 23, 2020

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12th 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Praise Prelude

Prelude

Dr. Pattin

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Song "Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"

(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. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Announcements

PSALM: Psalm 138

O LORD, your love endures forever. (Ps. 138:9)

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness;

³for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

⁴When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

⁵All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁶They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁷Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; he perceives the haughty from afar.

⁸Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁹The LORD will make good his purpose for me; O LORD, your love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

Paul offers practical advice to the Roman Christians, suggesting new ways of relating to God, the world, the self, and other believers.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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, beginning at Chapter 16.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds by revealing his vision of the church.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Gospel Response (Spoken)

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

MESSAGE

Message Song

"We All Are One in Mission"

Pastor Rayl

(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.

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

P: Lord, listen to your children praying.

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.
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.

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.

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.

Dismissal

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

Closing Song “*Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*”
(sung by Annette Slater)
Postlude Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Darold Henninger, Kevin Ruedy

SOLOIST

Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

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.



God Gives Us the Answer

Jesus' question to his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" might sound like a serious challenge to their faith and faithfulness. The question certainly left open the possibility that the disciples would give the wrong answer. After all, rumors among the crowds who followed Jesus--who heard his preaching and teaching, and witnessed his healing--proposed that Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. All these people were believed to be mere forerunners of the Messiah. Would the disciples get it right?

Peter did. He answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus, perhaps amazed by his confession, responded, "Blessed are you, Simon! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven."

The good news for us in this exchange is profound. It is not up to us, flesh-and-blood folks, to figure out who Jesus is. That truth is revealed to us by God, who speaks through the Holy Spirit to call and enlighten us. We do not have to rely on our own understanding or strength to come to God. The one who made the world also creates faith in us. God gives us the answer!

The giver of all good continues to watch over us into eternity. Having called us through baptism, the Spirit makes us holy and keeps us in relationship with God. Our Advocate abundantly forgives our sins and continues to nurture our faith through the bread and wine of holy communion. When we are in need of healing or consolation, the Comforter speaks to us through the communion of saints, ever reminding us of God's love and concern for all creation.

Who do you say Jesus is? Listen! God is telling you!