

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

September 20, 2020

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16th 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 have corporate singing and verbal liturgy responses, as long as we keep our masks on. 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. You can get a bulletin at the check-in table when you walk in. 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.

There is a small wooden church just to the right of the main door when you come in. It has a slot for your offering.

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

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell (Please stand)

Dr. Pattin

Praise Song "Amazing Grace / My Chains Are Gone"

Thanksgiving For Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the Thanksgiving begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The water is poured into the baptismal font.

P: Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from the faucet, for rain and snow, for the Maumee River, Lake Erie, and all the smaller creeks and streams.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for your salvation through water.

P: We give you thanks for the life of the baptized, for all who worship in your name, for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen, but to whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks, O God for the life of all baptized.

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters; for our new birth into a life of forgiveness of sin, redemption and service; for our calling to be your people, and for being sent out as the body of Christ for the life of the world.

C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity (+) now and forever. Amen.

Baptismal Hymn – We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

*We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death;
That as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his,
We will all be reunited, for he lives.*

*In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread,
In the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past;
In the losing and the winning we hold fast.*

*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 resounds again
In a song that has no ending. . . . 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.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

Announcements

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10–4:11

Unlike all other prophetic books, this focuses on the prophet himself rather than Jonah's message. The story begins when Jonah flees God's call to announce the city of Nineveh's destruction, symbolizing all that is hated by the Israelites. This story of a reluctant prophet highlights the very nature of God, who "is gracious and merciful . . . and abounding in steadfast love."

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country?"

That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

The LORD is slow to anger and of great kindness. (Ps. 145:8)

I will exalt you, O God my king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**²Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to his greatness.

**⁴One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

**⁶They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

**⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (please stand) (led 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 20.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells his disciples a shocking parable about God's generosity, which reverses human expectations and offends those who believe God gives people only what they deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

SERMON
Sermon Hymn

"We All Are One in Mission"

Pastor Rayl
No. 576

(led by Annette Slater)

(Please stand.)

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.

(Please be seated)

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

Offertory Music

Dr. Pattin

(Please stand.)

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. 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.

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."

Communion Hymns - During the distribution of Communion the following hymns will be led by the Annette:

*"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"
"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"*

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 "Spread, Oh Spread, Almighty Word" No. 663
(led by Annette Slater)

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Jeff Ladd, Jeff Smith

HYMN LEADER

Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD

Don Holmes

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.



Grace for All

It can be unnerving when someone "crashes the line" and ends up in a place ahead of you, especially when you have been waiting patiently along with everyone else. Human beings have a natural sense of fairness and order, and that means we pay attention to things like "first" and "last." So when Jesus tells this last-will-be-first story in today's gospel, we are likely to find our sensibilities challenged. Of course people who work a full day should make more money than those who come on the job an hour before the shift ends!

God calls each of us to work in the vineyard. Some of us have been in the vineyard longer than we can remember. Others of us are recently arrived. And some who gather in the worshiping community this day may be thinking about responding to the landowner's invitation for the first time.

In this vineyard, seniority does not carry much weight. Grace abounds! Not all the workers are always happy about that. However, what appears as God's disregard for the long-time faithful is actually a challenge for all workers to share in God's radical generosity. The only way to be happy as workers in the vineyard is to realize that none of us has a "right" to be here. All of us enter the Christian community as outsiders, even those baptized as infants brought by faithful Christian parents.

If our tasks in the vineyard seem wearisome chores, or if we find ourselves grumbling about God's lack of fairness, it may be time for us to look again at God's incredible openness to all of us who deserve less than what we receive. The cure to our discontent is God's amazing grace and infinite generosity. Get in line! God's about to hand you a paycheck bigger than anything you could ever imagine!