

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 - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

September 27, 2020

September 27, 2020

17th 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 *"Shine, Jesus, Shine"*

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. 3

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

(Please be seated)

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. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Philippians 2:1-13

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn to describe the attitude of humble self-sacrifice displayed in Christ Jesus. Although Christians may disagree on many things, he urges them to be of one mind with regard to emulating Christ's self-giving love.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
 And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death--
 even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.
¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in
 my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own
 salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you,
 enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-8 (Psalm 25:1-9 NRSV)

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:5)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;
 let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**²Let none who look to you be put to shame;
 let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

³Show me your ways, O LORD,
 and teach me your paths.

**⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me,
 for you are the God of my salvation;
 in you have I trusted all the day long.**

⁵Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
 for they are from everlasting.

**⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
 remember me according to your love
 and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

⁷Gracious and upright is the LORD;
 therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**⁸He guides the humble in doing right
 and teaches his way to the lowly.**

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation *(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, beginning at Chapter 21.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

Shortly after arriving in Jerusalem, Jesus drives the moneychangers out of the temple, heals the sick, and begins teaching. These activities are challenged by the religious leaders who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

MESSAGE

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 wooden church in the Narthex if you have not already done so.)

Offertory Music

Dr. Pattin

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.

(Please stand)

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

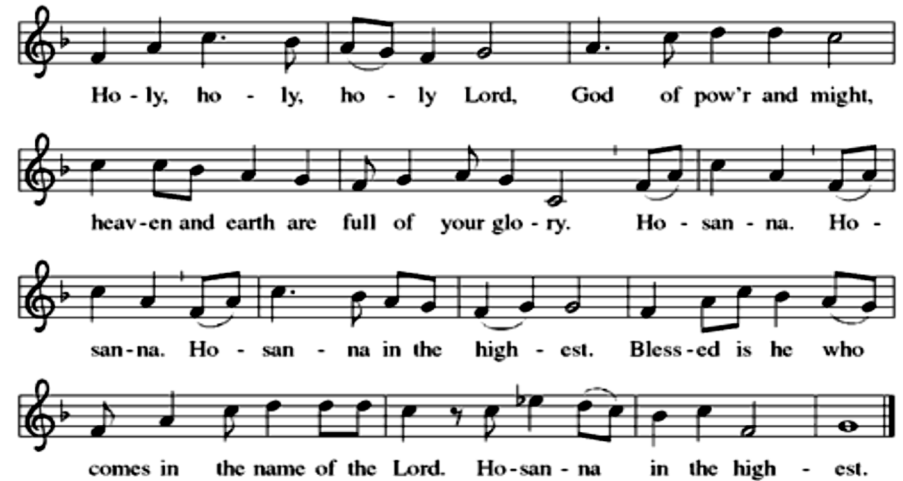
P: Lift up your hearts.

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, 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.

C: 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."

(Please stand)

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 Song "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"
(led by Annette Slater)

Postlude
Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Darold Henninger, Kevin Ruedy

HYMN LEADER

Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

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.



Get Going . . . Now!

In today's gospel Jesus tells a story about two sons. Both are asked by their father to work in the vineyard. One says he will not work but ends up going anyway; the other agrees to the task but never actually goes. Neither one was true to his word, but everyone agrees that the son who first said "no" actually *did* what his father asked.

Perhaps the son who agreed to work meant to do the tasks . . . sometime. He never *said* "no" to his father; he merely *did* "no." The answer he gave with his mouth was not as strong as the answer he gave with the rest of his body. The problem began with his delay. Good intentions melted into postponed commitments, which revealed his real priorities and laid bare his true heart.

Have you put off making good on your commitments? Have you said "yes" with your mouth but ended up saying "no" with the rest of you? Have good intentions melted into procrastination?

The son who said "no" reminds us that second thoughts are not always bad. Sometimes we make up our minds too fast, or we make a promise on impulse. Other times we are too quick to ignore or underestimate an opportunity that could mean life and health for another. Sometimes our hesitation, delay, or inaction harms human relationships. Second thoughts are at the heart of forgiveness. They can reflect the generosity and graciousness of God.

It is not too late. Only stubbornness can keep you out of the vineyard and out of God's new day. There is a gracious invitation being addressed to you this day. It comes with an expectation that those called to service will seize the opportunity to work for what is good. No matter how you have answered in the past, you are invited to respond anew today. Live your "yes."

Get going . . . now!