

October 4, 2020

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Rebuilder

Why would builders "reject" a stone? It could be too weak or too porous or riddled with fractures that might cause it to crumble. Or it could be of such an unusual shape that there would be no way to fit other stones around it to make it a useful part of the structure.

In today's gospel reading Jesus quotes a psalm that speaks about such a rejected stone (Ps. 118:22-23). This unwanted stone becomes an important architectural element in a new kind of structure. The original wording of the psalm could mean this rejected rock is the cornerstone that determines the angles for the rest of the building. Or it could refer to the keystone at the top of an arch that holds the whole structure together. Either way, using a "rejected stone" would create a rather unusual building.

What parts of your life don't fit together right now? What in your life is out of place, awkward, or just plain wrong? Are there challenges or heartaches that threaten to turn carefully built walls--routines, assumptions, lifestyles--into rubble? Where in your life could you use a solid foundation?

Jesus tells his story about a vineyard in rebellion to give his listeners--and us--another chance. His message about God's unconditional love does not fit into the world's structures of accountability. Jesus himself is the rejected stone, the stone that doesn't fit. He affirms his rightful title as Son of God by being executed as a criminal. He is part of God's new plan for building a different reality in the world. And wondrous architect that he is, he is able to take the misfit, crumbling structures of our lives and turn them into something which will amaze our eyes! Let him get to work as the master builder in your life.

First St. John Lutheran Church

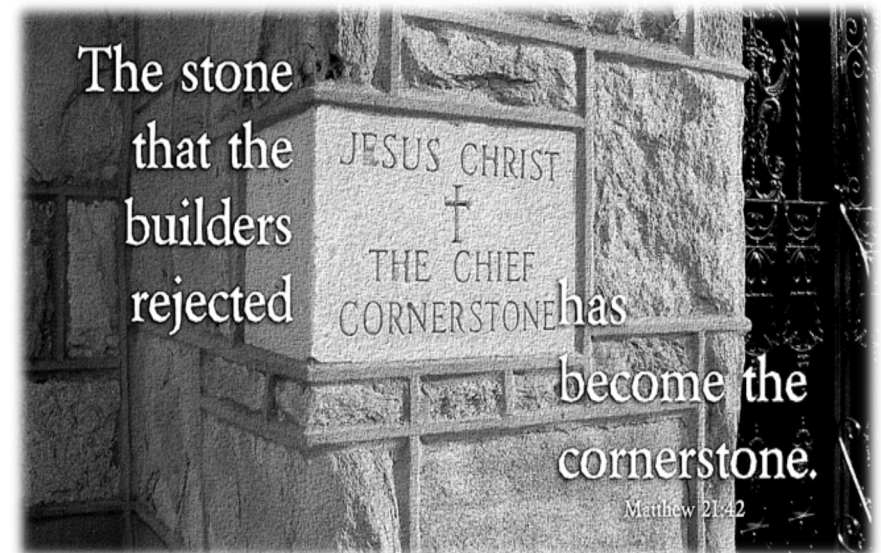
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

October 4, 2020

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.

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.



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 "Jesus Loves Me"
(led by Annette Slater)

Postlude Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Dick Haar, Jeff Ladd

HYMN LEADER

Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude Dr. Pattin
Ringing of the Bell (Please stay seated)
Opening Hymn "We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"

Liturgy of Holy Baptism

Presentation of Candidate

P: *In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.*

P: *Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Avery June Metzker baptized into Christ?*

Parents: *I do.*

Address to the Families – (Pastor, Parents, Sponsors, & Congregation.
This concludes with the pastor addressing the congregation:)

P: People of God, do you promise to support Avery June and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: **We do.**

Profession of Faith – (Pastor, Parents, & Congregation)

P: *I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.*

P: *Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?*

Response: *I renounce them.*

P: *Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?*

Response: *I renounce them..*

P: *Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?*

Response: *I renounce them.*

(The congregation joins in the Creed:)

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

Thanksgiving at the Font – (Pastor)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God . . .

Baptism – (Pastor, Family & Candidate)

Signing and Sealing – (Pastor)

Welcome (please stand) – (Pastor & Congregation)

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(The service continues with the pastor at the altar.)

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.

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:

*"I Received the Living God"
"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"*

(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.



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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. Israel is likened to a promising vineyard that must be destroyed. Despite God's loving care, Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress where fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected. Having failed to uphold the covenant, Israel will bear the Lord's judgment.

Let me sing for my beloved
 my love-song concerning his vineyard:
 My beloved had a vineyard
 on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
 and planted it with choice vines;
 he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
 and hewed out a wine vat in it;
 he expected it to yield grapes,
 but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
 and people of Judah,
 judge between me
 and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
 that I have not done in it?
 When I expected it to yield grapes,
 why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
 what I will do to my vineyard.
 I will remove its hedge,
 and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
 and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste;
 it shall not be pruned or hoed,
 and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
 I will also command the clouds
 that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
 is the house of Israel,
 and the people of Judah
 are his pleasant planting;

he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

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 21.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will ironically bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said to the people:] "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?"

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON Pastor Rayl
Sermon Hymn "When Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"
(v. 1, 3, 4, & 6, led by Annette Slater)

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.)

Musical Offertory

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: