

First St. John Lutheran Church

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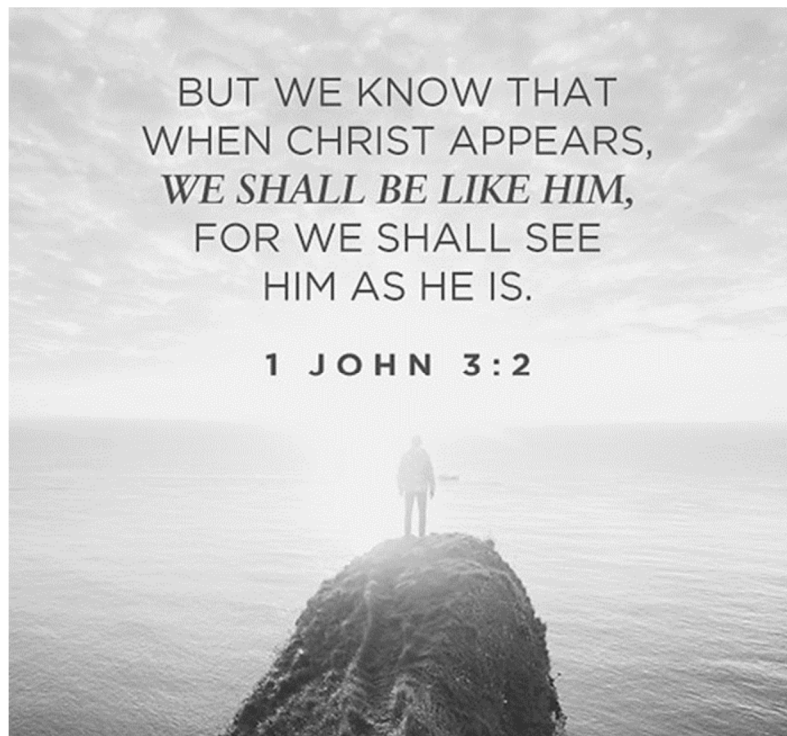
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

November 1, 2020

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All Saints Day

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Please review some of our covid 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 stay seated) Dr. Pattin

Opening Hymn "For All the Saints" (v. 1-4)
(led by Annette Slater)

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 God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Announcements

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. This reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer answers with the assurance of God's protection and a vision of eventual victory.

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD. (Ps. 34:9)

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

**²I will glory in the LORD;
let the humble hear and rejoice.**

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt his name together.

**⁴I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.**

⁵Look upon him and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

**⁶I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

⁷The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him,
and he will deliver them.

**⁸Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who trust in him!**

⁹Fear the LORD, you that are his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing.

**¹⁰The young lions lack and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

²²The LORD ransoms the life of his servants,
and none will be punished who trust in him.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

John encourages us to hope in God's love and trust the promise that we shall see God's face.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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 5.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

In the beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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 "Oh Happy Day When We Shall Stand"
(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

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.

Litany for All Saints Sunday

P: Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life,

C: we glorify you.

P: Jesus Christ, the resurrection and life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life,

C: we praise you.

P: Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope,

C: we worship you.

P: To you, O blessed Trinity (+) be glory and honor, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

P: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

C: Praise be to Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Reading of the names of the departed:

John J. Spoerl
Marcia J. Henninger
Dwayne K. Betz
Kim S. Cousino
Eugene E. Schacht
Sharon M. Gemeunden
Charles W. Neal
Margie C. Myers

Dorothy A. Zeadker
Barbara A. Welling

P: God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death, and by his resurrection he has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Make us certain that because he lives, we shall live also, and that neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come shall be able to separate us from the love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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.



2020 POINSETTIA SALE
 SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD

Fill in the form below to place your order for poinsettias to be used during worship the last two weeks of December. You can place this form with payment in the wooden church we use for offering (located in the Narthex) or mail it to the church office. Payment must accompany orders. Checks payable to: **First St. John Lutheran**

Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 6th.

Number of plants @ \$10.00 each _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

Color (circle one) Red White

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) _____

In Honor of (Living) _____

November 1, 2020

ALL SAINTS DAY

Blessed Reward

Rewards are not gifts. You have to *do* something to earn a reward. When Jesus speaks of a heavenly reward in today's gospel, it seems to imply that those who receive it have done something to earn it--something exceptional. What? The reward recipients have been "poor in spirit," "persecuted for righteousness' sake" and have undergone the indignities of being reviled and slandered on Jesus' account. In other words, it sounds as if they have been miserable. Is the reward a payback? Is it compensation for the suffering that seems to accompany being a follower of Christ?

Hardly! In today's gospel Jesus paints a portrait of saints whose lives do not appear to exemplify what the world considers states of blessedness. The poor, the mourners, the meek, the persecuted--these do not fit the world's mold of success. They simply don't fit in. The First Letter of John says it well: The reason the world does not know us--children of God that we are--is because the world did not know God (1 John 3:1).

To be a saint is to follow Jesus on a path of hidden mission in the world. Despised, rejected, a failure on the world's scales of achievement, Jesus shows a new way of being a "success." It is the way of humble obedience, servanthood, seeing your life as a gift to be spent on others. Following Jesus on this path, we arrive with him at the destination of resurrection glory. Through suffering, through death, through a cross and open tomb, we will arrive with all God's saints at the surprising end of all our earthly stories, a joyful and gladsome reward waiting for us in God's eternal home.