

November 15, 2020

24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## Wealth to Share

At first Jesus' words might seem unfair: "To all those who have, more will be given . . . but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away." Wouldn't it seem more evenhanded if everybody got a little? But try to see the story from the perspective of the master. Would you rather entrust your wealth to the wise investor or to the employee who hides a million dollars in the garden?

What is most important to realize is that none of the slaves in the story owns the wealth entrusted to them by their master. The difference between the trustworthy slaves and the lazy one is that the trustworthy slaves know the master expects something to be done with the wealth left in their care. What a lame excuse when the one who buried his loan in the ground says, in effect, "Oh, I was supposed to *do* something with this?"

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of all in Jesus' story is that the lazy slave never understands the extreme generosity and the extravagant trust of his master. "I knew that you were a harsh man." Hardly! Harsh people don't leave others with a million dollars to invest.

So, what are you doing with the extravagance of God? Do you have any idea how much has been given to you? Have you tasted the generosity of God? God holds nothing back from you--not even Jesus' life! Begin by taking stock of the wealth entrusted to your care. Remember, it's not just in your bank account. It includes your time, your relationships, the story of your one-of-a-kind journey through the world. What are you doing with all that wealth? Is it buried in the garden? Go grab a shovel and get to work! Understanding how wealthy we are is the first step to becoming generous investors in others.

## First St. John Lutheran Church

2471 Seaman Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43605  
419-691-7222

[office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

[www.firststjohn.com](http://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 15, 2020**

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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.

*Due to increased cases of Covid in Lucas County, we are returning to no corporate singing or spoken responses. Dr. Tony and Annette Slater will provide music. The service will be recorded and published to the website. Future plans are to "live stream" the service.*

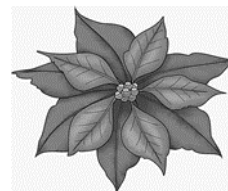
Elders will wear gloves. You can get a bulletin at the check-in table when you walk in. Please do not leave your bulletin in the pew when you exit; take it home or put it in the recycling bin at the front door.

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.



## **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 6<sup>th</sup>.***

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

Color (circle one)      Red                      White

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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In Loving Memory of (Deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (Living) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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.

### **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 Hymn "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" v. 1-4  
(sung by Annette Slater)

Postlude Dr. Pattin

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## ***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

### **ELDERS**

Darold Henninger, Kevin Ruedy

### **SOLOIST**

Annette Slater

### **SOUND BOARD**

Mark Ackerman

## ***ORDER OF WORSHIP***

Prelude Dr. Pattin

Ring of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Hymn "O Day of Rest and Gladness" v. 1 & 3  
(sung by Annette)

### **The Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the  
earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have.  
Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us  
for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Please be seated)

### **Announcements**

### **PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8, 12**

*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)*

Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say,  
"Go back, O child of earth."

<sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night.

<sup>5</sup>You sweep us away like a dream;  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

<sup>6</sup>In the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

<sup>7</sup>For we consume away in your displeasure;  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

<sup>8</sup>Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days,  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life. Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation (please stand)** (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, Chapter 25. Glory to you,  
O Lord.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

*In the second of three parables concerning the second coming, Jesus indicates that merely maintaining things as they are is not sufficient. As Christians await his return, we are to use wisely the gifts of God.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

**Gospel Response**

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

Pastor Rayl

"O Jesus, I Have Promised" v. 1 & 3

(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.

**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. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer**

P: Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

**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.