

First St. John Lutheran Church

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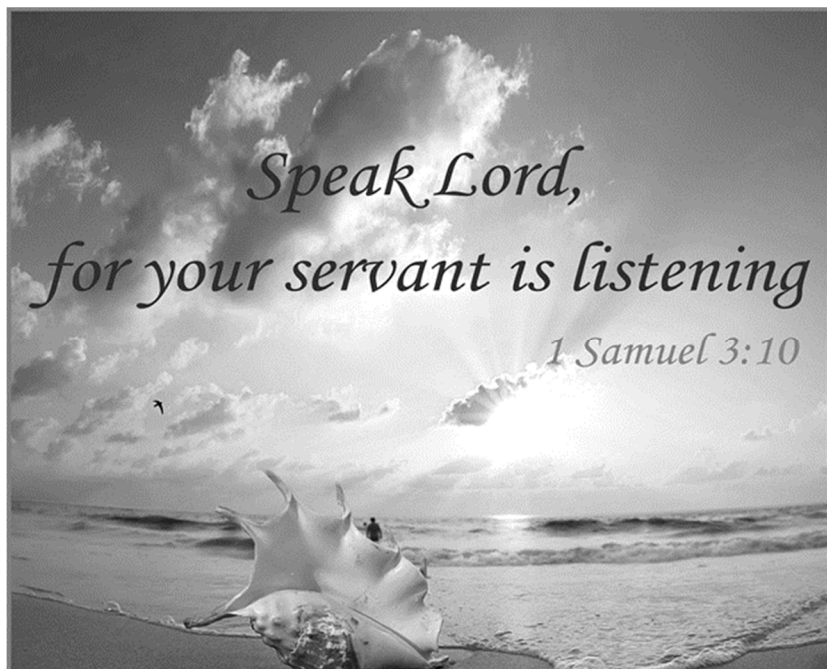
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

January 17, 2021

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Second Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Please review some of our 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.

NOTE: We can speak the congregational responses behind our masks. Dr. Tony and Annette Slater will provide music. The service will be recorded and published to the website. We are now live streaming the service on our church website, www.firststjohn.com

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

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song *"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"* No. 311
(sung by Annette)

Invocation

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity (+) one God, Love from the beginning,
Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another,
trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Merciful God, we confess that we are not perfect. We have said
and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming
grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be
your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your
righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the
courage to try again.

C: Amen.

P: Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is
born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of (+) Jesus, who
has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve
to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most
precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful
redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May
we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you
more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

This reading recounts a transition from the leadership of Eli the priest to Samuel. At a time when visions and auditions were rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 139:1-12

You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

**²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

³You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.**

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

⁷Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

**⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"
¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

v. 1 & 3 No. 510 (sung by Annette)

*Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.*

*Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 1.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word"

Pastor Rayl

No. 663

(sung by Annette)

(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.

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: Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and the treasures you entrust to us. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Hear us, Lord.

C: Your mercy is great.

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

