

First St. John Lutheran Church

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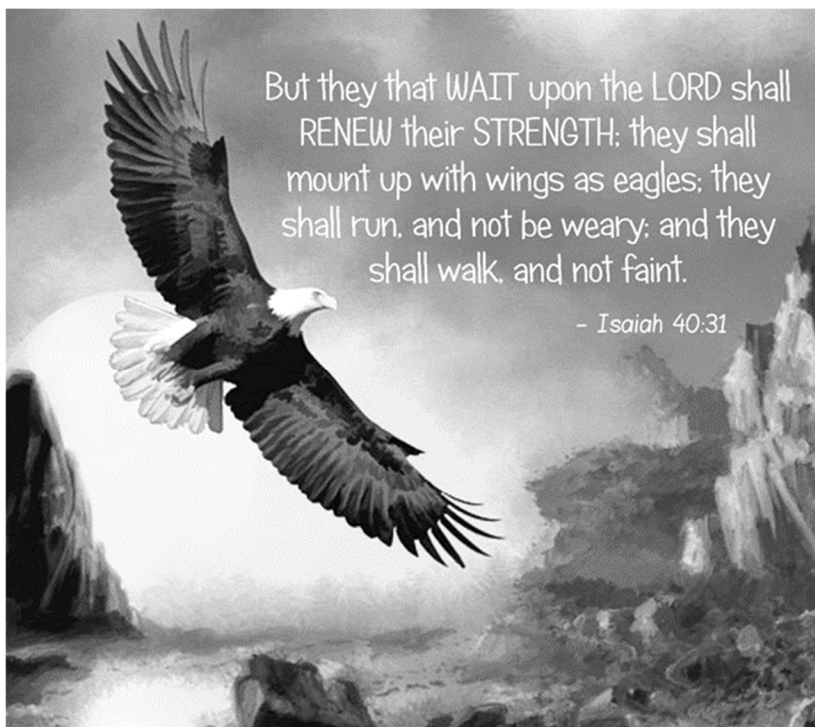
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

February 7, 2021

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Fifth 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 Hymn "O Day of Rest and Gladness" v. 1, 2, & 4 No. 521
(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. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and
power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness,
that your good news may be made known to the ends of your
creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

*The Judeans in exile have a reason to be hopeful: the One who will bring them to
freedom is the God who created the world and gives strength to those who are weary.*

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse "Dearest Jesus, At Your Word" v. 1&3 No. 510
(sung by Annette)

*Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you
As the promises here given draw us wholly up to heaven.*

*Radiance of God's glory bright, Light of Light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light; help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
That our prayers and songs may please you, as with grateful hearts we
praise you.*

Gospel Acclamation

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression.
Everywhere he goes, he heals them and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are
running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by
Jesus.*

As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of
Simon and Andrew, with James and John.³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in
bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.³¹ He came and took her by
the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or
possessed with demons.³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door.

³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many
demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a
deserted place, and there he prayed.³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for
him.³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the
message there also; for that is what I came out to do."³⁹ And he went throughout
Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON Pastor Rayl
Sermon Hymn "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" No. 767
(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.

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.

