

First St. John Lutheran Church

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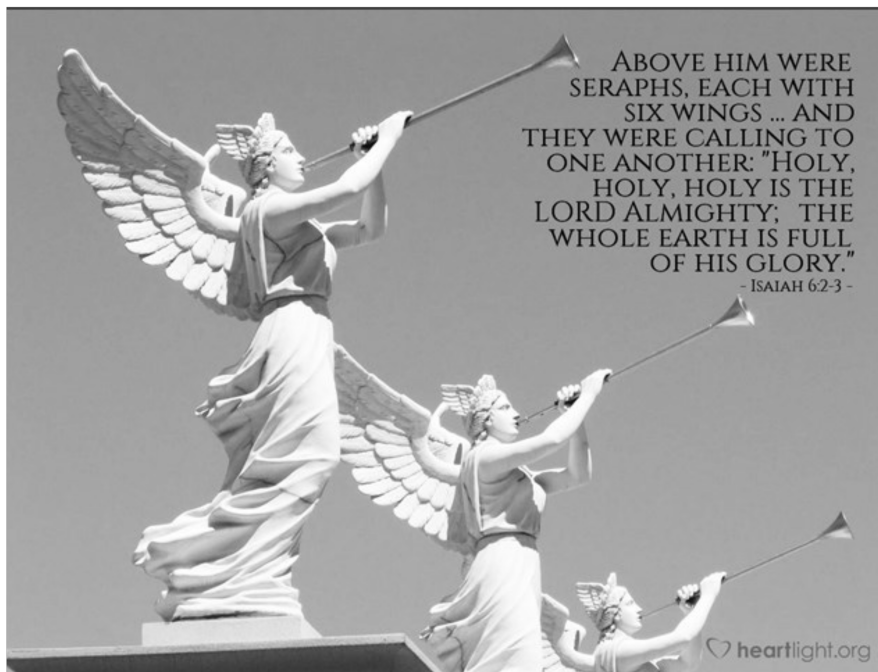
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

May 30, 2021

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The Holy Trinity

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.

We can now sing the hymns and speak the congregational responses behind our masks. Annette Slater will lead the hymns. 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 hand out the bulletins. 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.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office or in the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song

“O Zion, Haste”

No. 668
(led by Annette)

Rite of Holy Baptism

(see insert)

Prayer of the Day

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Announcements

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates the prophet's vision of the Lord surrounded by the angelic company. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory—God's mercy toward sinners.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 29

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. (Ps. 29:2)

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ **He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹ The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father, and sisters and brothers with Christ the Son.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (led by Annette)

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 3.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

Pastor Rayl

No. 697
(led by Annette)

(Please stand)

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: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

P: Hear us, O 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.

Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, + be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Memorial Day Observance

Closing Hymn "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" No. 890
(led by Annette)

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

HYMN LEADER

Annette Slater

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION
SUNDAY**

June 20, 2021



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 20th. Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized. If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Tuesday, June 15th.

NAME OF GRADUATE

GRADUATED FROM

DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.):

YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE: _____

May 30, 2021

THE HOLY TRINITY

Thrust into the Light

Jesus is visited by Nicodemus at night. Though this might seem like a minor detail to skip over, the gospel writer wants us to notice it. Darkness is a symbol for misunderstanding, not only on Nicodemus' part, but on the part of those he represents: all of us. Nicodemus knows that Jesus has come from God, but doesn't realize that he is God. Even Jesus' explanations confuse Nicodemus. Here we encounter God as Father, Son, and Spirit, yet they are one God.

Like Nicodemus, we may always feel a bit "in the dark" when it comes to comprehending the mystery of the Trinity--one God in three persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We don't have to try to understand it all; what we need to know is that we need to be saved and God in all three persons saves us. Jesus uses the metaphor of birth to help Nicodemus understand how dramatically God works in our lives (the word "born" appears in this lesson eight times!). Like a slap on the bottom that old-time doctors used to stir the newborn to utter its first cries, God works lovingly and powerfully to wake us from our womb-like slumber.

A baby is calm in the darkness and comfort of its mother's womb, but at birth is overwhelmed by the brightness and excitement. We, too, are stunned when we encounter the great power and mystery of God. Sometimes it's just easier to remain in the dark than to risk encountering our own shortcomings, our own sinfulness. We would be doomed to remain spiritual infants were it not for the great sacrifice of Jesus. He gave his life for us.

Baptism thrust you into the light of Jesus and named you forever as child of God, member of God's kingdom through water and Spirit.