

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 9, 2021 - 8:00 am

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

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 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 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—8:00 am

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

No. 392
(led by Annette)

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

C: Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

P: To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

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. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

Jesus is raised from the dead as Lord of all creation. The risen Christ comes to all persons regardless of their condition in life. In this reading, a Roman army officer welcomes Peter's witness to Christ. The Holy Spirit descends on these Roman "outsiders," causing amazement among the witnesses.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:5)

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

²**The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

⁸**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy⁹ at the presence of the LORD,
for he is coming to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

John calls upon Christians to love God and to love one another. Toward the end of this text, John says exactly what this faithfulness means: we love God when we obey God's commandments.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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 15.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

Jesus said: ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to do and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"Day by Day"

Pastor Rayl
No. 790

(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: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

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: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, (±) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Closing Hymn
Postlude

"Beautiful Savior"

No. 838
Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Dick Haar, Bob Hecklinger

HYMN LEADER

Annette Slater

May 9, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

What Kind of Love?

When William Penn established Pennsylvania he called the settlement Philadelphia, which means "city of brotherly love." Reflecting his English Quaker ideals, Penn wanted people to live in peaceful harmony and to be open to all and tolerant of all.

Commanding us to love "as I have loved you" (John 15:12), Jesus commends love on a higher plain than sisterly or brotherly love. His is the love shown in Jerusalem on Good Friday; we are to love as he did on the cross, with a costly outpouring of life for all.

The Easter season celebrates the resurrection with the dark silhouette of the cross behind its blazing light. Jesus reached resurrection glory only through death, and while human nature prefers the easy road of trying to love without cost, cross-love is different. For Jesus there was no crown without a cross. We, too, must die in order to live.

Jesus commands us to love with Good Friday love, not mere tolerance or goodwill, though they, too, are important. He commands us to love the undeserving and those who revile and speak ill of us. To love the poor and downtrodden. To love the neighbor next door and the one 3,000 miles away. Faithful love is not a triumphal quest that pays no heed to sin's power; in point of fact, true love absorbs the shock of evil and death.

This is Jerusalem love. While others can teach us about brotherly love, only Christ shows us self-giving and costly-unto-death love. From him we learn that God is love, and that we love like him when our hearts beat with the compassion of God.