

## First St. John Lutheran Church

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[www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



**June 13, 2021**

**Third Sunday After Pentecost**

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

If you are fully vaccinated, you no longer need to wear masks. However, if you have not been vaccinated, please continue wearing a mask. 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.

The service will be recorded and published to the website. We are now live streaming the service on our church website, [www.firststjohn.com](http://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.

## Dr. Pattin

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

### **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

### **Special Music**

Bradley Baker, soloist

*(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**

Bradley Baker, soloist

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

P: Hear us, O Lord,

**C: your mercy is great.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Malotte

Bradley Baker, soloist

*(Please stand)*

### **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.**

Closing Hymn "We've Come This Far by Faith" No. 633  
*(led by Bradley Baker, congregation sings refrain only)*

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

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

### **ELDERS**

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

### **HYMN LEADER**

Bradley Baker

### **SOUND BOARD**

Beth Hugueley

## *Bradley Baker*



Please welcome our guest artist this morning, Bradley Baker. Mr. Baker is a native of Toledo who studied music in Los Angeles, attending The University of Southern California.

Mr. Baker has done concerts and guest artist performances in more than 35 countries, two world premier operas, ISRAEL and William Grant Still's opera, COSTASO, and the 2018 world premiere of the opera, I DREAM in Toledo, Ohio. Mr. Baker enjoyed doing PARADE with 3-D Theatricals, Old Deuteronomy in CATS, Simon of Cyrene in THE GLORY OF EASTER, and The Shepherd in THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS at the world famous Crystal Cathedral.

He also performed as Sir Lionel in CAMELOT, Jim in BIG RIVER, King Melchior in AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS, and in DREAM GIRLS, RAGTIME, PHANTOM, and GREASEPAINT. Mr. Baker has had the honor of playing God in the world premiere of CREATION.

Mr. Baker also has done solo performances with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Honolulu, San Diego, South East, Temecula and international orchestras and symphonies. He has recorded solos with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and has three solo CDs.

Learn more at [www.bradleybakerrmusic.com](http://www.bradleybakerrmusic.com)

*Welcome to First St. John!*

June 13, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### **Good Soil**

Mark 4:1-34 contains some parables about sowing and seeds. Today's reading includes two of those parables. It is not necessarily our task to explain Jesus' parables, or to think that by picking them apart we understand them and have learned all we can from them. Instead, our task is to ask, what is God doing with these stories to change me and teach me? Whether this is your first time or your hundredth time hearing a parable, how is Jesus using it to tend your heart today?

How is God making you into good soil? What things in your life are hindering your growth in Christ? Are you carrying a grudge? Is some unforgiven issue lingering between you and a friend or family member? Do you have a heavy burden or simply a weary heart? Do you have difficulty sleeping at night not because of a physical problem but because of spiritual unrest?

How is God tending the garden of your heart? If you happen to work with the soil this summer season, ponder how God does this work on a large scale with us. How is God weeding and pruning you? Turning away from your old behavior takes resources that you don't possess on your own: let God pull away those things which sap your life and choke your roots. How is God watering and feeding you? The waters of holy baptism and the foretaste of the heavenly feast at holy communion are abundantly provided for your growth.

God is our gardener this summer, encouraging our growth in every way. Sometimes we need pruning to flourish; other times it's simply sunshine and rest like every other living thing. Feel how God is making you into good soil.