

First St. John Lutheran Church

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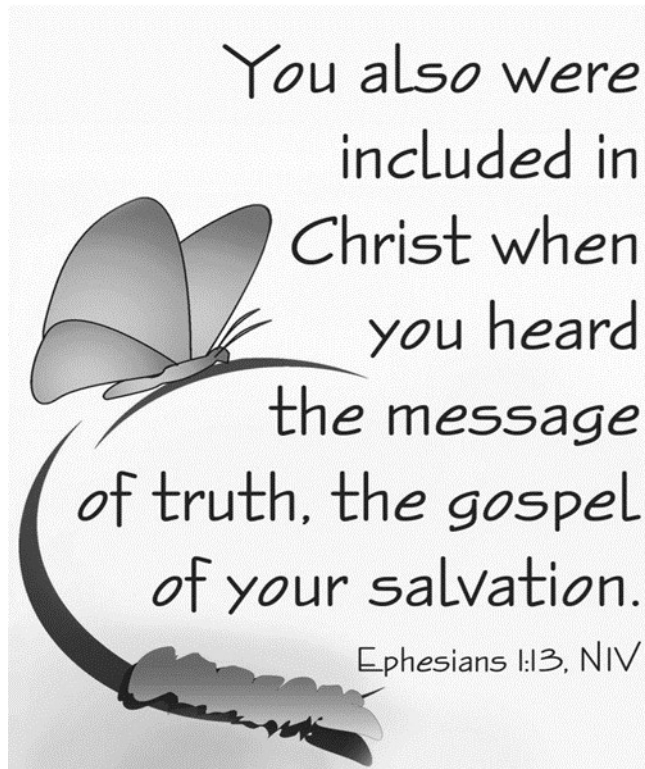
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister



July 11, 2021

Seventh 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

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.

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

July 11, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude Emily Lipper, trumpet
Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn "Dearest Jesus, We Are Here" (v. 1-3) No. 443

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. O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

READING: Ephesians 1:7-14

The epistle to the Ephesians begins with thanksgiving and praise to God. Above all, God is blessed for the glorious grace bestowed on us in Christ.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark Chapter 6 .

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples also will suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him."¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it."²³ And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.

²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON Pastor Rayl
Sermon Hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" (v. 1, 3, 4) No. 705

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

Emily Lipper, trumpet

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.

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.

Closing Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me!"

No. 595

Postlude

Emily Lipper

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS: Dick Haar, Bob Hecklinger

SOUND BOARD: Beth Hugueley

GUEST MUSICIAN: Emily Lipper, Trumpet

July 11, 2021

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Death of a Prophet

Today we encounter God's power even in a disturbing story. John the Baptist rightfully confronted King Herod about his unlawful and unnatural marriage to his brother's wife, Herodias. Angered by John's comments, Herodias persuades Herod to arrest and imprison him. In her grudge against John, she uses her own daughter to seek revenge.

At Herod's birthday party, Herodias has her daughter (Herod's niece, now stepdaughter!) dance for him; not a little girl's dance recital but something erotic, designed to manipulate Herod. He makes a rash promise to the girl who runs straight to her mother for instructions. Herod doesn't have the guts to retract his oath when he realized he's been outfoxed by his wife. He's the king! He could reverse his own order; but he's worried about embarrassing himself further in front of his guests by going back on his word.

We can note the contrast between Herod, who liked to watch and listen to what was stimulating but could not be stirred to act with justice, and the disciples of John. Their commitment to their teacher kept them alert and near enough to come and accord his body final dignity. Their love moved them to risky action. Strange that even with his severed head on a platter, the prophet John holds more power than the weak king. This death reminds us of another tragic story, another innocent man, arrested and killed for telling the truth. This one carried upon him the sins of the world.

Worship transforms us from spectators into participants. The words addressed to us and expressed by us pull us into commitment. Worship draws us into relationships with God and with one another in the body of Christ. Our commitment to these relationships inspires us to action: we are moved nearer, perhaps, to those in danger, bearing witness against injustice and restoring dignity in a suffering world.