

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

July 4, 2021

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Sixth 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.

For your offering, there is a small wooden church just to the right of the main door when you come in. It has a slot in it 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 Dr. Pattin
Ringing of the Bell

Opening "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" No. 363
(led by Carol Haar)

Confession and Forgiveness (All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: God, our provider, help us.

C: **It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

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. God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 B.C., the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

A voice said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 123

Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy. (Ps. 123:3)

To you I lift up my eyes,

O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

²**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God, until he has mercy upon us.**

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.

⁴**Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.

⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

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. Mark Chapter 6.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:6b-13

Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the "between": between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

Then he [Jesus] went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"We All Are One in Mission"

Pastor Rayl

No. 576

(led by Carol)

(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.

Pastoral Prayer

P: Hear us, O Lord,

C: your mercy is great.

The Offering *(As you exit, please place your offering in the wooden church in the Narthex if you have not already done so.)*

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

P: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Amen.

(Please be seated)

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

The Communion *(distribution will be continuous)*

If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.

"All baptized Christians, believing that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's table. Infants, children and others who have not been baptized are welcome to come to receive a blessing; please make an X with your arms across your chest."

Communion Hymns

"Bread of Life from Heaven" No. 474
"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup" No. 492

(After all have received communion, please stand.)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: 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.

Fourth of July Presentation

Closing Hymn "O Beautiful, For Spacious Skies" No. 888
(led by Carol)

Postlude Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Darold Henninger, Kevin Ruedy

HYMN LEADER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

Packing like a Prophet

Many families take a trip during summer vacation, snowbirds head north for cooler weather, youth groups set out on mission trips, and kids go to camp. Often these trips involve vans, buses, and RVs loaded down with every supply imaginable. It takes days to shop and prepare for a big journey. It still involves significant planning even if you're only filling one small piece of carry-on luggage for the plane or train.

But when Jesus instructs his disciples in today's gospel, his list includes almost nothing! He lists more things to exclude than to include: he orders them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. Sandals, a staff, and the clothes on their backs. That's all.

Though Jesus often teaches about reducing our possessions, today's good news is not simply about material things. Jesus is trying to give the disciples the freedom they need to focus on their mission: proclaiming repentance, casting out demons, and curing the sick. Jesus doesn't want his disciples distracted by too much stuff; he wants them to be fully present to those they are being sent to serve. This mission is about repentance, authority over unclean spirits, healing, and preparation for the extraordinary news of the cross.

May this message refresh all our travels, both distant and local, this summertime. Today Jesus releases us from our earthly distractions, giving us the freedom to prepare our hearts for his message of repentance and forgiveness. His forgiving kind of love allows us to journey with unburdened and attentive hearts. Therefore, our packing list for this summer includes carrying the good news of Jesus through our generosity and hospitality toward the new and familiar folks we meet, doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God.