

## 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  
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister

**August 1, 2021**

**Tenth 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.

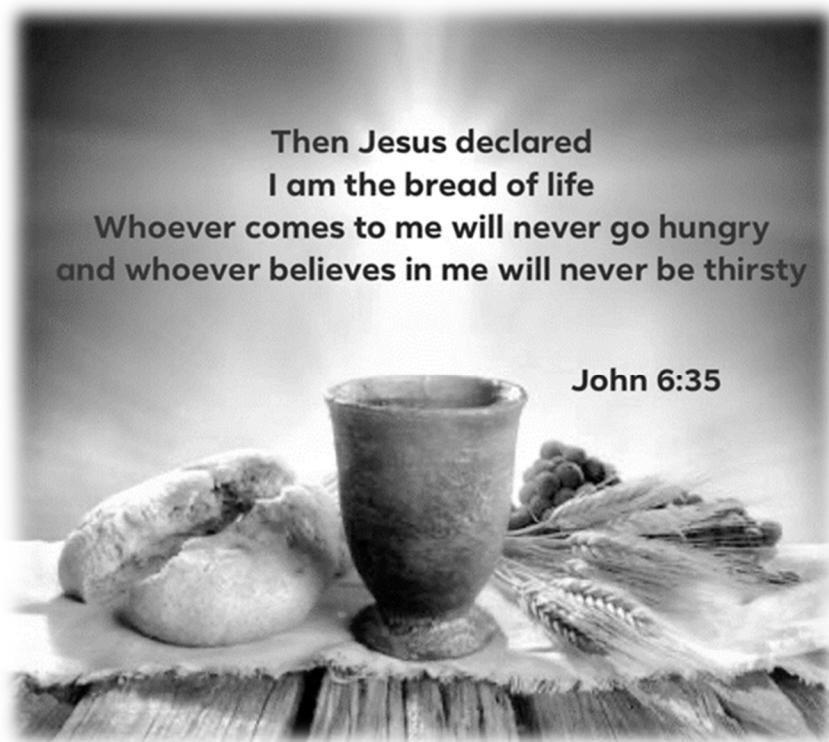
For your offering, there is a small wooden church just to the right of the main door when you come in. It has a slot in it for your offering.

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.



*Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community*

**August 1, 2021**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude  
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

No. 858  
(led by Bill)

### 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, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### Announcements

#### **PSALM: Psalm 78:23-26**

*The LORD rained down manna upon them to eat. (Ps. 78:24)*

Yet he commanded the skies above,  
and opened the doors of heaven;

<sup>24</sup> **he rained down on them manna to eat,  
and gave them the grain of heaven.**

<sup>25</sup> Mortals ate of the bread of angels;  
he sent them food in abundance.

<sup>26</sup> **He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,  
and by his power he led out the south wind;**

#### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-8**

*Previously, Paul has declared that, through grace, Christ has reconciled all people to God and to each other. Now he traces the specific consequences of this reconciliation for Christian communities that are diverse in their unity.*

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

<sup>7</sup>But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;  
he gave gifts to his people."

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

### Gospel Acclamation (led by Bill)

*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 6.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### **GOSPEL: John 6:24-35**

*Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him through the countryside. He challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.*

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were beside the sea, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

<sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." <sup>28</sup>Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." <sup>30</sup>So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?"

<sup>31</sup>Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " <sup>32</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup>They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

### Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Pastor Rayl

No. 632

(led by Bill)

*(Please stand)*

### **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.*)

**Musical Offertory**     *"Angels Among Us"*     Bill Hamilton, soloist

### **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**

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*     No. 471

*"Bread of Life from Heaven"*     No. 474

*(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.**

Closing Hymn "You Servants of God"

No. 825  
(led by Bill)

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

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

#### **ELDERS**

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

#### **HYMN LEADER**

Bill Hamilton

#### **SOUND BOARD**

Dave Wilbarger

***August 1, 2021***

***TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

### **Never Be Hungry**

Empty mouths water, empty stomachs growl, empty hands reach out for food and drink. Empty pockets mean empty plates and empty places as members of the community weaken and fall. Extreme hunger and thirst can scare even liberated slaves into nostalgia for bondage. Regular meals would seem preferable to starving to death in freedom. In ancestral times God heard the cries of the Israelites and sent something they didn't recognize: manna, a new kind of bread.

In today's gospel, the crowd members get in their boats to come looking for Jesus. He fed them; they ate their fill; it felt good. He enjoins them not to chase around for food that perishes, but pursue the food that endures. "Food" is a metaphor for teaching, which fills emptiness of mind and heart. The perishable sort is an experience that feels good temporarily but will not sustain over the long run: a sugar high from junk food rather than the slow inward building of tissue wrought by nutritional fare. The food that endures--not always instantly recognized--is what strengthens us to persevere not only in times of prosperity or celebration, but also through tragedy and failure.

If the crowd is not to work at chasing after religious highs, what is asked of them is to believe in the one God has sent. They want a sign to prove why they should do so. Jesus fed them miraculously the day before, but what about today? "Our ancestors ate manna in the wilderness"--bread that appeared in just the right quantities morning by morning.

Jesus calls himself the true manna from heaven: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." In his presence--in word and sacrament and personal devotion--we recognize and gather up our daily and enduring bread. With food and freedom together we are filled, satisfied, blessed.