

First St. John Lutheran Church

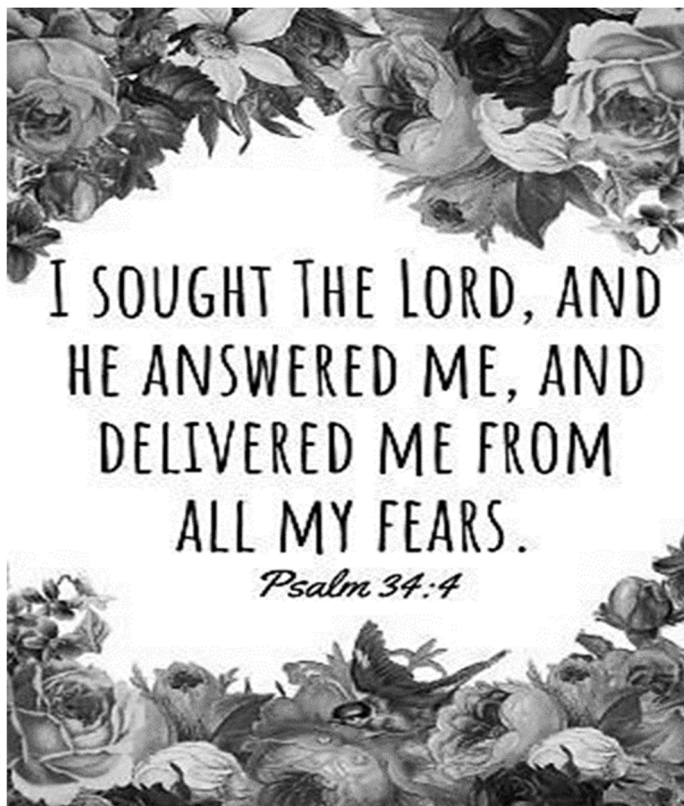
2471 Seaman Street
Toledo, Ohio 43605
419-691-7222

office@firststjohn.com

www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director
Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister



August 8, 2021

Eleventh 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude Dr. Pattin
Ringing of the Bell

Opening Song "Shout to the Lord" Praise Singers
with Emily Lipper on trumpet

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. Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:4-8

Chapter 18 portrays the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal where God withholds and sends the fire. Afterward, Elijah orders the prophets of Baal to be killed. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to take Elijah's life. Here, Elijah is fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.

[Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." ⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-8

Taste and see that the LORD is good. (Ps. 34:8)

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

²**My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.**

³O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

⁴**I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.**

⁵Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

⁶**This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble.**

⁷The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

⁸**O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:25--5:2

The letter to the Ephesians declares that people are reconciled with God through God's grace, not by doing good works. Those who experience God's forgiveness are called to live as the transformed people they have become.

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil.

²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Where love can grow
And peace is understood.*

Gospel Acclamation

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 6:35, 41-51

After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them about the true significance of this remarkable sign.

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."

⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷"Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

Pastor Rayl

No. 510

(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

"Prayer and Praise"

Eric Ewazen

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 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
Postlude

No. 504
Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Darold Henninger, Kevin Ruedy

GUEST MUSICIAN

Emily Lipper, trumpet

SOUND BOARD

Beth Hugueley

August 8, 2021

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Bread for the Journey

The prophet Elijah was as good as dead: the queen had vowed to kill him, and the desert--a fatally harsh environment--was his only refuge. Exhausted, he fell asleep. But an angel woke him: "Get up and eat." Temporarily revived by miraculous food and drink, Elijah fell asleep again. And again the angel insisted that he get up and eat; "otherwise the journey will be too much for you." In the strength of that food he made his way to the very presence of God. The angel had Elijah rise and eat; in today's gospel, Jesus bids us eat and arise.

"I am the bread of life," Jesus says. He draws on rich scriptural imagery comparing God's word and wisdom to bread, imagery that was familiar to his hearers. But now Jesus, the word made flesh, calls *himself* the bread come down from heaven for the life of the world.

The crowd cannot fathom how Jesus, whose family they know, can claim this about himself. Unfazed by their murmuring, he continues: he has come down so that those drawn to him may be raised up. His teaching is a new kind of nourishment: *living* bread. Those who eat of this word, this bread, though they fall asleep in death will be raised on the last day, and will live forever. Those who believe now, already have eternal life. As the aroma of baking bread draws us toward the kitchen, present goodness and future promise are tasted together.

The word and meal we share in Christ connect us with countless others who have partaken and fallen asleep in hope of resurrection. These gifts are food for the journey by which we make our way to the very presence of God.