

## First St. John Lutheran Church

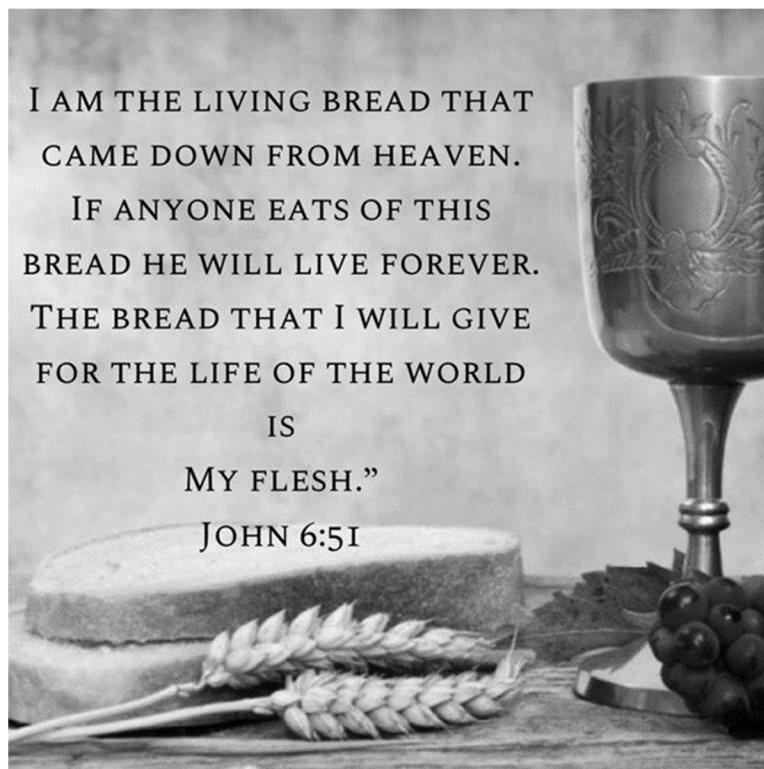
2471 Seaman Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43605  
419-691-7222

[office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

[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 15, 2021**

**Twelfth 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.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude Dr. Pattin  
Ringing of the Bell

Opening "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" No. 843  
(led by Annette)

**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. Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Announcements

### **FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6**

*Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food--insight and understanding--is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.*

Wisdom has built her house,  
she has hewn her seven pillars.  
<sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,  
she has also set her table.  
<sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant girls, she calls  
from the highest places in the town,  
<sup>4</sup>"You that are simple, turn in here!"  
To those without sense she says,  
<sup>5</sup>"Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed.  
<sup>6</sup>Lay aside immaturity, and live,  
and walk in the way of insight."

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 34:9-14**

*Those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good. (Ps. 34:10)*

O fear the Lord, you his holy ones,  
for those who fear him have no want.  
<sup>10</sup>**The young lions suffer want and hunger,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.**  
<sup>11</sup>Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
<sup>12</sup>**Which of you desires life,  
and covets many days to enjoy good?**  
<sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from evil,  
and your lips from speaking deceit.  
<sup>14</sup>**Depart from evil, and do good;  
seek peace, and pursue it.**

### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20**

*Fully aware of this world's evil, Paul still finds much he is grateful for. Here he describes the alternative quality of life available to those who have been reconciled with God and one another.*

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation** *(led by Annette)*

*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 6:51-58**

*The feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Here he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of the eucharist.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>51</sup> "I 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."

<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

**Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

*"Son of God, Eternal Savior"*

Pastor Rayl

No. 655

*(led by Annette)*

*(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.**

*(Please be seated)*

**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**

Lydia Long, flutist

**Offering Prayer**

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**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.**

**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.**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn "In Thee Is Gladness" No. 867  
(led by Annette)  
Postlude Dr. Pattin

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

**ELDERS**

Jeff Ladd, Dave Wilbarger

**GUEST MUSICIAN**

Lydia Long, flutist

**HYMN LEADER**

Annette Slater

**SOUND BOARD**

Mark Ackerman

# PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

- |                   |                        |                   |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| dish soap         | shampoo, child         | toothbrush, child |
| paper towels      | laundry soap           | tampons           |
| toilet paper      | fabric softener sheets | sanitary pads     |
| tissues           | body lotion            | band aids         |
| deodorant         | body soap              | toothpaste, adult |
| shampoo, adult    | toothbrush, adult      | toothpaste, child |
| disposable razors |                        |                   |

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members. **If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month.** If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



## Abide in Me

In the Hebrew Scriptures, "Wisdom" is not some distant abstraction, but an earthy woman. Not only has she set her table, but she has built her house and chopped the wood for it. To provide the feast of insight she gets hands and feet dirty, slaughtering animals and mixing wine. Her guest list highlights those most in need of her, the senseless and the simple. Wisdom is not beyond us but among us, immersing herself in the chaotic processes that yield a creation of wonder.

In today's gospel, Jesus utters earthy wisdom: his flesh is true food, his blood is true drink, given for the life of the world. One must consume them in order to live.

The crowd recoils: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" But the prospect is hardly alien. In the womb, each of us derives indispensable nourishment through our mother's blood. Outside the womb, the first food for many of us is milk produced by our mother's body.

"You are what you eat," we say. Eventually the food we eat becomes our own flesh. "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood," Jesus says, "abide in me and I in them." The promise of these startling words is intimacy with God--a link between spirit and flesh that is stronger than death. The word made flesh dwells not only among us but within us, tirelessly bringing forth through earthy processes the new creation of wonder and joy. We have only to eat and drink--to allow ourselves to receive.

The bread that we break, the cup of blessing that we bless, are a sharing in the body and blood of Christ. We who are many are one: blood brothers and sisters of Jesus and of one another, all invited to Wisdom's everlasting feast.