

First St. John Lutheran Church

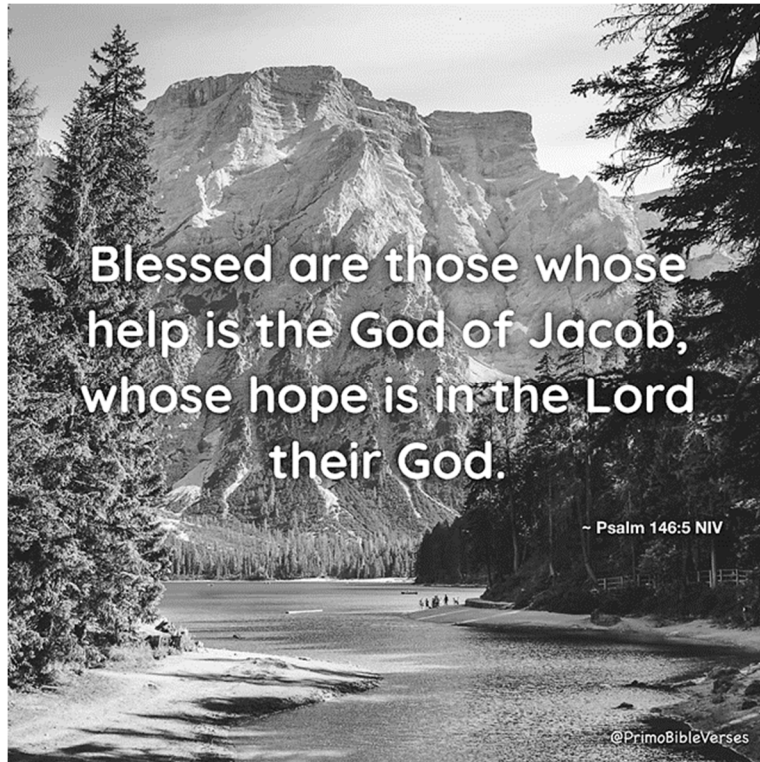
2471 Seaman Street
Toledo, Ohio 43605
419-691-7222

office@firststjohn.com

www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



September 5, 2021

15th 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.

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

September 5, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude Dr. Pattin
Ringing of the Bell

Opening "Morning Has Broken" No. 556
(led by Toni)

L: In the name of the Father, and the Son, (+) and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the
mouths of infants and children;

**C: you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence
the foe and avenger.**

L: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the
moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

**C: what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

L: Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and
honor you crown them.

**C: You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,**

L: All flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of
the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the
paths of the sea.

**C: O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the
earth!**

L: God of majesty, amid the grandeur of your creation you sought
us out, and by the coming of your Son you adorned us with glory
and honor, giving us dominion over your works. Enable us so to
care for the earth that all creation may radiate the splendor of
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise "This Is My Father's World" No. 824

Prayer of the Day

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

L: 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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 showed God's
vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which made the path from Babylon to
Zion safe for the exiles' return. Now we see a description of the highway home, the
holy way of God's people, blossoming with God's glory.*

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146

I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:1)

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

²**I will praise the Lord as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴**When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶**who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸**the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰**The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!**

SECOND READING: James 2:1-17

This letter is written to Christians who may have misunderstood the teaching that salvation comes by faith rather than by doing good works. James insists that true faith shows itself in action.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation *(led by Toni)*

*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

L: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 14.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

John's gospel is concerned for the faith of disciples who no longer have Jesus with them physically. Jesus promises they will receive the Spirit and that he will continue to reveal himself to those who love him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Gospel Response

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"O Master, Let Me Walk With You"

Pastor Rayl (video)

No. 818

(led by Toni)

(Please stand)

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

"Truth Be Told"

West / Pruis
Toni Wilbarger, soloist

Offering Prayer

L: 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.

Pastoral Prayer

L: 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

L: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

"How Great Thou Art"

No. 856
(led by Toni)

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

HYMN LEADER

Toni Wilbarger

SOUND BOARD

Beth Hugueley

September 5, 2021

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Resurrection Life Across the Miles

Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus moved toward people in need rather than away from them. In the gospels, Jesus touches a leper to cleanse the disease from the man's skin. He takes the hand of a girl who has died and raises her to life again. He talks to and then heals a man who lives among the tombs because his disease has pushed him to the very edge of his village. No matter what he is doing, Jesus shares his life with others, bridging the distance in order to restore and heal them.

When we hear stories from the ministry of Jesus, we who live so many centuries from all these events may sometimes feel like mere spectators of other people's good fortune. Our time is so different, and our lives are so distant from the roadways and villages of first century Galilee.

In the gospel reading for today, Jesus makes a promise that has to do with bridging the distance between his time and ours. "Because I live, you also will live," he tells the disciples. His ministry had not been merely something for spectators to admire, but had touched real people's lives. So also his resurrection life is not just a spectacle to ponder across the centuries, but a life to be shared between Christ and all those for whom he died. The hymn writer puts it well: "Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior with the Father reigns" (*LBW* 363, st. 3).

The mystery and the hope of the resurrection is that the Risen Christ reigns as he always has, by moving toward those who need him. He does not shrink back from our pain, disease, and death, but lives to bring healing and restoration in the midst of it, just as he did throughout his ministry. Because he lives, we also will live.