

October 10, 2021

20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Left Behind

Jesus' words in today's gospel seem harsh, and it seems like we are the ones left behind. We live in one of the wealthiest countries on earth, yet Jesus says it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. To the man who wants to inherit eternal life, Jesus' advice is to sell all that he owns and give it to the poor so that he may have true treasure in heaven.

We must admit that money and possessions can have a power over us. It is easy for us to define our self-worth by how much money we make, what kind of home we live in, what kind of car we drive, and what kind of clothes we wear. It is often guilt that causes us to respond to the needs of the poor. We feel better by giving a nod in the direction of those less fortunate than us. Though Jesus' words seem impossible, he tells his disciples that with God all things are possible. We all fall short of the kingdom, so we live by God's mercy and forgiveness. We respond to the gospel not to earn God's favor but to show forth the good news in our lives.

We may not be in a place to give away all that we own, but Jesus' words may challenge us to rethink the place of money and possessions in our lives. We are called to leave behind all that hinders our relationship with God and others. By living with less we may gain all kinds of new possibilities for ourselves and for a world in need of the abundance that comes from God.

First St. John Lutheran Church

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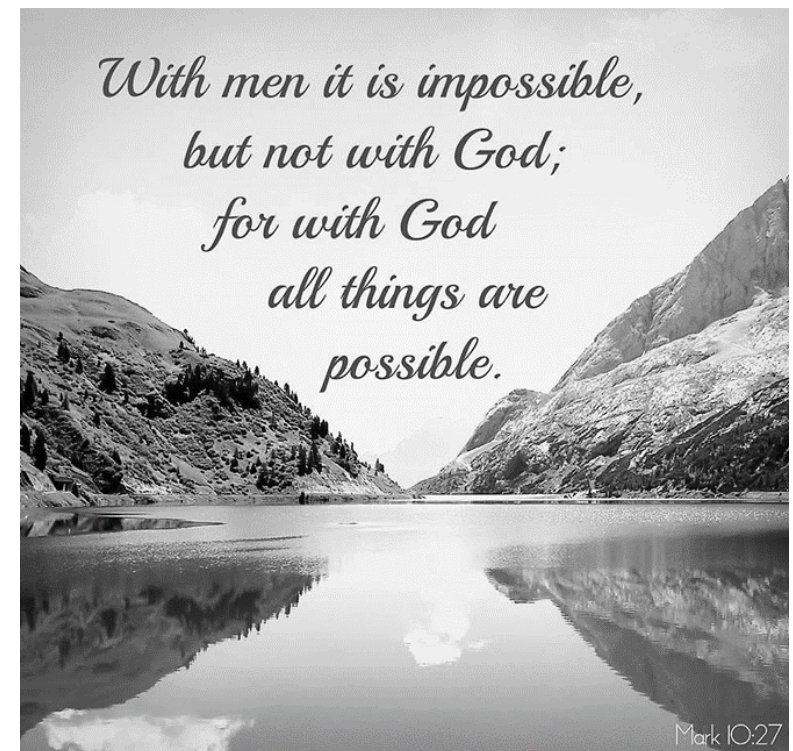
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

October 10, 2021 - 10:30 am

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Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / Catechism
10:30 am	Late Worship

Covid Guidelines: If you are fully vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask. However, if you have not been vaccinated, please continue wearing a mask. We have some available near the entryway if you don't have one.

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Offering: 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.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the lounge (middle floor of the educational building – turn right out of the door by the choir loft).

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Class: Class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday.

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.



Box Gift Suggestions

Crafts & Activities

Pencils & Erasers, Crayons, Coloring books, Watercolor set, Playdough, Stickers, Jump rope, Make-it-yourself craft kit, Puzzles, Binoculars, Fishing kit, Gardening kit with gloves and trowel (no seeds), Magnets, Playing cards, Chalkboard and chalk

Personal Care Items

Comb, Hair Brush, Toothbrush, Washcloth, Bandages (colorful), Cup, Water bottle, Plate, Bowl, Bracelets, Sunglasses, Non-liquid lip balm, Flashlight (solar powered or hand crank; if battery operated please include extra batteries), Stick deodorant (for ages 10-14)

Clothing & Accessories

Shirt, Pants, Underwear, Purse, Shoes & Socks, Flip-flops, Hats, Scarves, Mittens, Wristwatch, Hair bows, Tote bag, Bead jewelry kit, Hair clips, ribbons, or bands, Bandana

Toys

Foam Ball, Finger puppets, Slinky, Etch a Sketch, Interactive toys with push buttons (include extra batteries), Tennis Ball, Play cars/trucks/boats, Plastic dinosaurs, Yo-yo, Small Frisbee, Costume jewelry, Hacky sack, Kaleidoscope

A "Wow" Item

Doll, Stuffed Animal, Harmonica, Outfit of clothing, Soccer ball, Football, Toy cars, Baseball & mitt

School Supplies

Pencils, Small manual pencil sharpener, Markers, Solar-powered calculator, Blank index cards, Safety (blunt tip) scissors, Pencil case, Glue stick (non-liquid), Ruler

Closing Hymn "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"
Postlude

No. 886
Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Terry Ruedy, Tom Gaskins

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude

Dr. Pattin

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Song

"Here I Am to Worship"

Praise Singers

Rite of Holy Baptism

(see insert)

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,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God our comforter:

**C: Like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in + Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: Amen.

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

C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise *"We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"*

No. 451
(all verses)

Prayer of the Day

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the Northern Kingdom, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class of poverty, corruption, and oppression. He warns that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and evil bring curse.

Seek the LORD and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

¹²For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins--
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.

¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

¹⁵Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

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: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

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: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, (+) one God, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Offering Prayer

P: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. To you be praise, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: 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;

PSALM: Psalm 90:12-17

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

¹³**Turn, O Lord! How long?**

Have compassion on your servants!

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.**

¹⁶ Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷**Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

The letter teaches that God knows all our failings and understands our struggles. Christ reveals that we need not hide from God in shame. We can draw near to receive mercy.

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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. Mark Chapter 10.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' " ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age--houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions--and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn "Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"

Pastor Rayl

No. 767

Presentation of Bibles

P: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

C: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

P: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

C: who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

P: who satisfies you with good as long as you live

C: so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

P: Today the sanctuary echoes with the words of promise made many years ago by your parents at your baptism that they would see about your instruction in the Christian faith and place in your hands the holy scriptures. Today each of you will be presented a Confirmation Bible as a gift from your parents and your brothers and sisters at First St. John Lutheran Church.

(The Bibles are distributed.)

P: Receive this Bible. Hear God's word with us. Learn and tell its stories. Discover its mysteries. Honor its commandments. Rejoice in its good news. May God's life-giving word inspire you and make you wise.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Blessed be your name, O Lord our God, you are the fount and source of every blessing! You have revealed yourself to your human creation in many and diverse ways. Our memory of your revelation is maintained and revered in the Scriptures that we hold in our hands. Look with delight upon us today as we renew our commitment to read and remember you in the stories of our salvation. Help us to absorb its wisdom and live its inspired truth.

P: Let us pray. Encourage us with the help of the Holy Spirit to use these sacred writings for our prayer and inspiration, for the increase of our own faith and devotion, and for the building up of your Kingdom. Through your Word may we be transformed into the very likeness of Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

Intercessory Prayer

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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

Chancel Choir

"Order My Steps"

arr. Jack Schrader