

October 17, 2021

21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Assuming Positions

Who among us wouldn't like to have the "preferred seating" on an airplane, at a sporting event, or in a concert hall? There is value in being in a better position to see or hear or be closer to the action.

The two brothers James and John want the best seats in the world to come. Jesus has just spoken candidly that he will be put to death and rise again. The Zebedee brothers are assertive: We want you to let us sit at your right and left hand in glory, they tell Jesus.

Their requests are not that surprising for their time. They want to establish earthly power for their family. Jesus is indeed setting up a royal family, but not in the way the Zebedee brothers are thinking. For Jesus, the royal family is the entire human race and the priesthood is based on service and sacrifice. Jesus intends to raise up the entire family of God, to show that we are all children of God.

Jockeying for position takes place throughout society. In many areas of life, whether in sports, elections, or beauty pageants, for example, everything seems to be about position and coming in first. Sometimes it seems like we are overly concerned with ourselves, possessed by our needs, consumed by our desires. Yet below the surface it is hard to tell whether it is arrogance or insecurity that is motivating us.

Not in our jockeying for position, but in the acceptance of our humanity with its suffering and need do we live out our baptism. The path to Easter may also involve blood and tears as well. The cup we share at the eucharist is filled not only with life's sweetness, but contains its bitterness as well. As Christ stoops to wash our feet and to give his life as a ransom, we too assume the humbling position of serving others.

First St. John Lutheran Church

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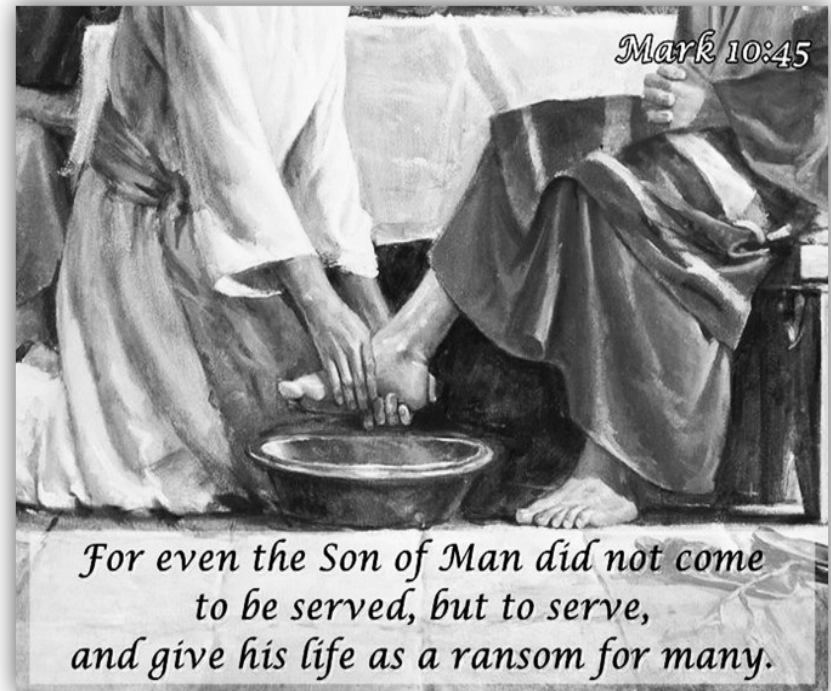
www.firststjohn.com

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 17, 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.



Shoebox 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

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

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

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.



Prelude
Ringing of the Bell Dr. Pattin

Opening Song *“Morning Has Broken”* No. 556

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 Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Isaiah 53:4-12

This is a section from the last of four passages in Isaiah that are often called "servant songs." Christians are most familiar with the various New Testament interpretations of this passage. In light of Christian faith, the servant's healing ministry and redemptive suffering are brought to fullness in the life and death of Christ.

Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
⁹They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.
¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.
¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

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.

Closing Hymn
Postlude

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

No. 879
Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Jeff Smith, Ted Hagedorn

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

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.

Litany of Blessing for Quilts

P: Almighty and gracious God,
C: you have so richly blessed us, but we pray for more than material blessings.

P: We pray for grateful hearts, for a humble awareness of our abundance amid all the world's poverty and pain.
C: Lord, we pray for more.

P: We pray for the courage to give generously of our resources—our imaginations, our time and abilities, our material wealth.
C: We pray yet for more, Lord.

P: We pray for confident hope, in the presence of such overwhelming needs, to know that each offering of money, quilts, and material resources makes a welcome difference to others and to you.
C: For still more, Lord, we pray.

P: We pray you would bless those who labor on our behalf through all the work of Lutheran World Relief and other agencies that will receive these quilts, that we would uphold them with our prayers, our encouragement, our gifts, our willingness to learn, and to invite the support of others.
C: In the name of our Lord who encouraged us to ask boldly when we pray.

P: We dedicate these quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each quilt is sent, making it more than just a piece of material, a collection of items—making each piece we have created an expression of love. May these be used in your service and become blessings for all who receive them.

C: Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. Give us grace to honor you with all of our being: draw our hearts to you, guide our minds, fill our imaginations, control our wills, so that we may be wholly yours. Use us as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people. Amen.

because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 91:9-16

You have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation. (Ps. 91:9)

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,
¹⁰ **no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.**
¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
¹² **On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.**
¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
¹⁴ **Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.**
¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
¹⁶ **With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:1-10

Using imagery borrowed from Jewish worship, the letter to the Hebrews describes Jesus as a great high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,
today I have begotten you";

⁶as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 10:35-45

On the way to Jerusalem, the disciples ask Jesus to grant them seats of honor. Jesus responds by announcing that he and his followers will "rule" through self-giving service.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."³⁶ And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?"³⁷ And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"³⁹ They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON
Sermon Hymn

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Pastor Rayl
No. 656

(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.)*

Chancel Choir

"Come Unto Me"

arr. Mary Kay Beall

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.

Intercessory Prayer

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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;