

## First St. John Lutheran Church

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[www.firststjohn.com](http://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**

**November 21, 2021 - 10:30 am**

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**Christ the King**

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](http://www.firststjohn.com). Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am**

Prelude Dr. Pattin  
Ringing of the Bell *(please stand as you are able)*

Opening Song “Crown Him with Many Crowns” No. 855 v. 1-4

**Invocation**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

C: **We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

P: God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

C: Amen.

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

C: **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

**Announcements**

**Bell Choir**

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”  
“For the Beauty of the Earth”

**FIRST READING: Daniel 7:13-14**

*Daniel's message here is that the oppression of God's people would indeed end. The Ancient One who is judge will call all nations to account and give dominion to God's people who are represented by "one like a human being."*

<sup>13</sup>As I watched in the night visions,  
I saw one like a human being  
coming with the clouds of heaven.  
And he came to the Ancient One  
and was presented before him.  
<sup>14</sup>To him was given dominion  
and glory and kingship,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him.  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
that shall not pass away,  
and his kingship is one  
that shall never be destroyed.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 93**

*Ever since the world began, your throne has been established. (Ps. 93:3)*

The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty;  
the Lord is robed, he is girded with strength.  
He has established the world; it shall never be moved;  
<sup>2</sup>**your throne is established from of old;  
you are from everlasting.**  
<sup>3</sup>The floods have lifted up, O Lord,  
the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.  
<sup>4</sup>**More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,  
more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord!**  
<sup>5</sup>Your decrees are very sure;  
holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.

**SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8**

*This book begins with a series of messages addressed to seven churches. John's greeting to these churches extols God as one who controls their past, present, and future.*

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.  
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.  
So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who  
was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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 18.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL: John 18:33-37**

*The story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through  
force or with love.*

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are  
you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or  
did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your  
own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you  
done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom  
were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being  
handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup>Pilate  
asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For  
this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.  
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

### **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON  
Sermon Hymn

Pastor Rayl  
"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"  
No. 634 v. 1, 3-5

*(Please stand)*

### **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Intercessory Prayer** *(following each petition)*

P: Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

### **The Offering** *(We now are passing the offering plates again.)*

**Chancel Choir**

"Such Love"

Graham Kendrick

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Let us pray. Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our 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: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our 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, and 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: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen, amen, 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: A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(please be seated)*

### **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**

*"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"* No. 492

*"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"* No. 494

*(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: Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet.

**C: Amen.**

### ***Operation Christmas Child Dedication Prayer***

P: Loving God, we pray for your blessing of these shoeboxes for the mission of Samaritan's Purse: "Operation Christmas Child."

P: We pray for the hurting children and families whose lives will be blessed by these boxes and the contents we've packed with love.

**C: Loving God, we pray for your loving touch.**

P: We pray especially that through these gifts, the hearts of the children and their families will be opened to your love and the message of your grace through Jesus Christ.

**C: Loving God, we pray for your grace to be made known.**

P: We pray also for the children and their families who are suffering in the desperate circumstances of poverty, sickness, or war, that you will meet their physical needs.

**C: Providing God, we pray for your bounty.**

P: We pray also that these shoeboxes will be useful tools to open doors for the proclamation of the gospel. To this end, in faith, we ask for your blessing.

**C: Amen.**

### **The 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

*"Rejoice, for Christ is King"*

No. 430  
Dr. Pattin

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

### **ELDERS**

Dick Haar, Bob Hecklinger

### **SOUND BOARD**

Andy Hodges

## 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.



**2021 POINSETTIA SALE**  
SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias that will decorate the church on Christmas Eve. Fill out the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by Sunday, December 5<sup>h</sup>. Payment must accompany your order. Make checks to: **First St. John Lutheran**

*Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.*

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Number of plants @ \$12.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Color (circle one)    Red                      White

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of (Living) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*November 21, 2021*

*CHRIST THE KING*

**Otherworldly**

In today's gospel Jesus says that his kingdom is not of this world. At times Christianity has been accused of being otherworldly--so concerned with the life to come that it is of no earthly good. That generalization can appear to be true if we consider this world to be not as important as the world to come. The themes of November in the church year are certainly otherworldly. We celebrate the harvest of the saints to life eternal. We reflect on the last judgment, the last things, death, and everlasting life.

What shall we make of Jesus' words that his kingdom is not of this world? Does it mean that our faith has no relation to daily life and the real issues of our world? Does it mean that we should only be concerned with heaven?

Not at all. Jesus' kingdom is not based on human power. It does not involve favoritism or fighting, domination or exploitation, status or conquest. Rather, it is a kingdom of justice and peace and love.

On this last Sunday of the church year we hear of ultimate truth. The source of this truth may be otherworldly, but it is all about this world. It is this world that God loves. Christianity claims that God became flesh in Christ for the sake of the world. We proclaim a God who suffers with us, whose care and love are known in our daily lives. Christ reigns among all those who are weak, poor, or in need, and we discover this truth anew as we work for an end to injustice, poverty, hatred, and violence.

Each Sunday we gather around word and meal so that the ultimate truth of Christ's humble reign may send us forth to love the world, both in its suffering and in its glory.