

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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

February 13, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

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

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 the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

February 13, 2022 - 10:30 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell **PLEASE REMAIN SEATED** Dr. Pattin

Opening Song "Processional Jubilee" Bell Choir

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

Bell Choir Story

Sue Ann Rogers, presenter

Bell Choir

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings contrasting two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our lives. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

²but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse

*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. Luke Chapter 6.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

[Jesus] came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.

¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴"But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵"Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Bell Choir

"Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"O Savior, Precious Savior"

Pastor Rayl

No. 820

(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.

Intercessory Prayer

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The Offering

Musical Offertory

“Joyful, Joyful”

Bell Choir

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, 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: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us
the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: (spoken) Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

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.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling
among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in
his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this
meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill
us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God
incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

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: 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

“Now We Join in Celebration” No. 462
“I Received the Living God” No. 477

(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.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

Postlude

No. 543
Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

FIRST ST. JOHN’S BELL CHOIR

Cheri Sergent, Director

ELDERS

Bill Nelson, Mike Winslow

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

READER

Toni Wilbarger

ACOLYTES

Jordan Cummerow, Mckenna Cummerow

Filling the Hunger

"Blessed are you who are hungry now," said Jesus. Blessed? In our world today, millions face starvation as a result of poverty, drought, and political crises. Is there a blessing in this?

Besides the obvious, physical hunger, other hungers abound. People are hungry for affection, respect, knowledge, power, wealth, fame, and many other things. Is there a blessing in this hunger? Perhaps so if, as Jesus says, that hunger will be filled. The hunger for affection leads us to form intimate relationships. The hunger for respect and approval impels people to work hard and make positive contributions to our communities. The hunger for knowledge has led to many life-improving inventions and discoveries. Our individual hungers drive the important decisions of our lives.

But what is this hunger that Jesus calls "blessed"? In Matthew's version of this same event, Jesus specifies that those who hunger for righteousness will be filled. Yes, Jesus fills more than just our hunger for righteousness. As Christians, our hunger for meaning in our lives, our hunger for peace of mind, our hunger for security, our hunger to be loved, all of these hungers are filled in Christ. But the hunger to be right with God is at the center.

Those who are full, or think they are, will not seek out Jesus. They've already got it all. Comfort, power, and material wealth can effectively mask the hunger inside us to know God. Truly, then, we are blessed to know that we are hungry, that we need Jesus, the Bread of life, in our lives. Knowing this, we seek him out in worship, Bible study, prayer, and Christian fellowship. And every time we seek him out, we are filled with blessings. As for those whose bodies waste away from hunger, we are the hands of God to make sure that they are blessed, that they will be filled.