

First St. John Lutheran Church

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www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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

**For as the heavens are higher than
the earth, so are my ways higher
than your ways, and my thoughts
than your thoughts.**

Isaiah 55.9

Authorised (King James) Version



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

March 20, 2022 - 10:30 am

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

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 |
| 9:15 am | Adult Bible Study |
| 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell Dr. Pattin

Opening Song “Bless Now, O God, the Journey” No. 326

The Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Thanksgiving For Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the Thanksgiving begins. The water is poured into the baptismal font.

P: Just as God’s work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from the faucet, for rain and snow, for the Maumee River, Lake Erie, and all the smaller creeks and streams.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman’s thirst with living water.

C: We give you thanks, O God, for your salvation through water.

P: We give you thanks for the life of the baptized, for all who worship in your name, for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen, but to whom we are bound.

C: We give you thanks, O God for the life of all baptized.

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus’ death through these waters; for our new birth into a life of forgiveness of sin, redemption and service; for our calling to be your people, and for being sent out as the body of Christ for the life of the world.

C: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity (+) now and forever. Amen.

Baptismal Hymn – We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus No. 451

We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death;
That as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his,
We will all be reunited, for he lives.

In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread,
In the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past;
In the losing and winning we hold fast.

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,
Glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one;
As it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again
In a song that has no ending. . . . Amen.

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

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their native land seems like an unbelievable promise of free food and drink for all who come to the celebration. What is more, those who return to the Lord also enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God’s ways are not our ways.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.
⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
 let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;
 my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
²**So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
 beholding your power and glory.**
³Because your steadfast love is better than life,
 my lips will praise you.
⁴**So I will bless you as long as I live;
 I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**
⁵My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
 and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
⁶**when I think of you on my bed,
 and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**
⁷for you have been my help,
 and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
⁸**My soul clings to you;
 your right hand upholds me.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Lenten Verse

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
 stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 13.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

Jesus addresses the age-old question of whether people deserve the seemingly random calamities that happen to them. The short answer is no. But the key to our peace is using the present moment to throw ourselves upon God's grace.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.' "

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

Pastor Rayl

No. 685

(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

Chancel Choir

"The Old Rugged Cross"

arr. C. Brown

Bill Hamilton, soloist

Offering Prayer

P: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Intercessory Prayer

P: Hear us, O God.

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.

The Blessing

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

C: We turn to the Lord for our life and hope.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you (+) peace.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn
Postlude

"We All Are One in Mission"

No. 576
Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Jeff Ladd, Dave Wilbarger

READER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Beth Hugueley

ACOLYTES

Cam Schumaker, Aubrey Swartz

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.



2022 EASTER FLOWER SALE
SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



It's time to order the flowers that will decorate the church on Easter morning, April 17th. The price is \$10.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth, or tulip. Fill out the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. The final Sunday to order will be April 3rd. Payment must accompany your order. Make checks out to: **First St. John Lutheran** and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, April 3rd.

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

Type of plant: _____
(lily, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) _____

In Honor of (Living) _____

March 20, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Bearing Fruit

We are all together in this: all of us have fallen short of the life to which God has called us. We are all in the position of the fig tree about which Jesus speaks in today's gospel. We have not consistently borne enough fruit to justify taking up the ground we occupy. But the gardener pleads for us, "Don't cut it down just yet. Let me care for it and nourish it and next year, if it still bears no fruit, you can cut it down."

A fig tree is generally grown for one purpose. Its wood is not valuable, nor is its shape especially lovely. It is valued for its fruit, and if it does not produce figs, it is of little use. Similarly, even though we may think of ourselves as good people, God looks for fruit from us, and all too often is disappointed.

Yet God loves us, and so keeps caring and laboring for us. Whatever life we enjoy at the present moment is not due to our own efforts, but is purely a gift from God. Indeed, the present moment is an example of God's grace. We deserve to have been cut down long ago. Even though we have produced little fruit to this point, we are being nourished for another season thanks to God's mercy. We are given the opportunity in the present moment to turn around from barrenness to fruitfulness.

Christ calls us to repent, to turn from our willful refusal to bear fruit. He invites us to allow the life of God to flow through us and to result in a rich bounty of godly living. Christ feeds us with heavenly food to make possible this fruitfulness. God's grace gives us the time to change our ways. Given such loving care, how can we not respond?