

First St. John Lutheran Church

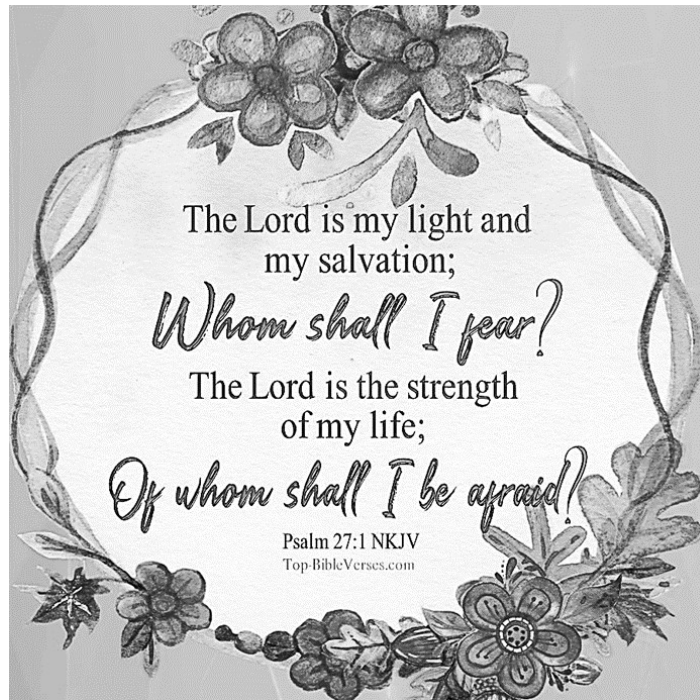
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



March 13, 2022

Second 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.

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

March 13, 2022 - 10:30 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell (Please stand) Dr. Pattin

Opening Song "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" No. 553

The Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion 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. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, 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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and the land will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God's promise is sealed with a covenant -making ritual, a sign of God's promise.

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

²But Abram said, "O LORD God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27

In the day of trouble, the Lord shall keep me safe. (Ps. 27:7)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**²When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

**⁴One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

**⁶Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!

**⁸"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

⁹Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

**¹⁰ If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

**¹² Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.**

¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

**¹⁴ Wait for the Lord; be strong,
and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17–4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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 6.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

Jesus likens the tyrant Herod to a murderous fox. He speaks of himself as a mother hen who would sacrifice her own life to shield her children from danger.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"When Peace Like a Rivèr

Pastor Rayl

No. 785

(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

Chancel Choir

"Sweeter as the Days Go By arr. M. Lister

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.

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 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.

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: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth burning with justice, peace, and love. Remember us in your kingdom and join us in praying:

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: Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

C: We come with open hands, hearts and lives.

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

*"I Received the Living God" No. 477
"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: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Christ our Lord.

C: 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

"Be Thou My Vision"

No. 793
Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

READER

Joanne Henningsen

ACOLYTES

Jordan Cummerow, Aubrey Swartz

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 13, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sheltering Wings

Jesus as a mother hen clucking over her brood may not be the foremost image we have of him, but it is one of the most helpful. Oftentimes we may feel as though we are defenseless in a danger-filled world. News stories carry frequent reports of violence on both small and large scales. Such occurrences are merely surface indications of a deeper danger. Christians have learned to name the deeper cause of our world's troubles; we call it sin. Sin reaches everywhere we human beings are, and it can seem all-powerful. Faced by such an all-encompassing danger, we might well wish for greater shelter than a mother hen can provide. What are just a few feathers between us and danger?

God is all-powerful, yet we may feel that even God's safekeeping is not enough. In vain we search for other types of protectors: something with more power, larger wings, and a bigger beak. To our dismay we discover that no protection system is truly fail-safe.

What we have, finally, are the wings of a mother hen who will not stop comforting us and brooding over us. Yet that is only the beginning: Christ offered his own life in order to gain our safety from all danger once and for all. We have no other ultimate power to turn to in life's difficult moments. Only Christ can give us a home in which we are protected from all that threatens us.

Here in our weekly gatherings--in the words from our scriptures, and in the bread and wine--God unfolds wings around us. To the untrained eye, these things may not seem very powerful. But to the eyes of faith, these things are the bedrock of our hope and our ultimate security.