

First St. John Lutheran Church

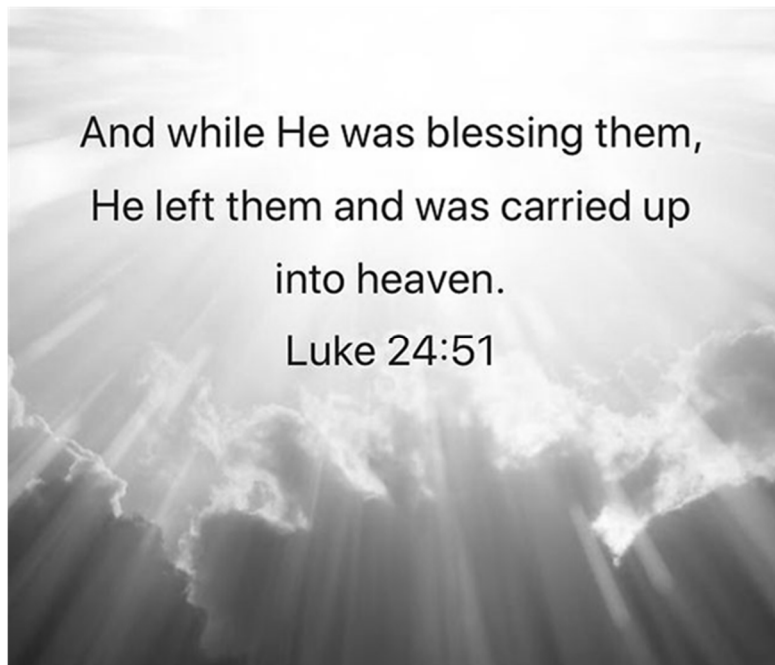
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www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

May 29, 2022

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Ascension of Our Lord

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! From September through May, we offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. For the summer, we have just one service at 9:00 am.

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.

Sunday School & Catechism are dismissed for the summer.

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.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bill Nelson, Dave Wilbarger

HYMN LEADER

Annette Slater

READER

Laura Scherer

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Hymn "In His Temple Now Behold Him" No. 417

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen.

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

P: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins, but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

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 God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

Before he ascends into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread from Jerusalem to all the world. Jesus' words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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.

²**He has established the world;
it shall never be moved;**

³your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.

⁴**The floods have lifted up, O LORD,
the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.**

⁵More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,
more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the LORD!

⁶**Your decrees are very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, Paul prays that they might also see the power of God, who in the ascension has now enthroned Christ as head of the church, his body.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 24.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

At the time of his ascension, Jesus leaves the disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit and an instruction that they should await the Spirit's descent.

[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them,

"Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"

Pastor Rayl

No. 393

(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

Musical Offertory

Dr. Pattin

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: God 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;

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.

Blessing

P: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, (✠) bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn
Postlude

“You Servants of God”

No. 825
Dr. Pattin

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

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

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.



**GRADUATE RECOGNITION
SUNDAY
June 19, 2022**



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 19th. *Congratulations!* Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized. If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Tuesday, June 14th.

NAME OF GRADUATE

GRADUATED FROM

DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.):

YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE _____

May 29, 2022

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Still With Us

Throughout the centuries, the ascension has been a popular subject for artistic interpretation. The sight of Jesus being lifted into heaven captures artists and our own imaginations. What a beautiful image!

In Acts Chapter 1, angels approach the disciples after Jesus ascended and asked them why they were continuing to look toward heaven. They reminded the disciples that Jesus would return in the same way they saw him go. The disciples needed to move out from their inner circle because the Holy Spirit was coming soon to work through them and send them throughout the world. After that, Luke’s gospel says the disciples went away with joy and blessed God in the temple.

What might have happened if they’d stayed there, watching the skies and waiting for Him to return? They may have been stuck; and perhaps they would not have gone out to preach the gospel to the world.

How many times are we stuck in our own lives— never moving forward because we keep looking back at what is now passed? Ascension Day is a wonderful time to remind ourselves to look around for Jesus. After the ascension, looking up was looking in the wrong direction. Jesus’ ministry with and among the disciples did not end with his ascension; his ministry was just beginning.

We are to carry on His mission to proclaim the good news, to teach, to live as Jesus did, and to serve the most vulnerable in our communities and in the world. Jesus is everywhere— with us and around us. Until He returns, we have a job to do. Let’s do it with the joy and blessing the disciples did. Because Jesus IS still with us.