

First St. John Lutheran Church

2471 Seaman Street
Toledo, Ohio 43605
419-691-7222

office@firststjohn.com

www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday Of Easter

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

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

May 15, 2022 - 8:00 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—8:00 am

Prelude Dr. Pattin

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Song "Here I Am to Worship" Praise Singers

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.

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. O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through 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

Choir Presentation

Annette Slater, Director of Music

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of pagan believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to save Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' own testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

¹¹"At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 148

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

² **Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!**

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ **He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² **Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!**

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Chancel Choir

"The Lord is the Strength"

John Rowley

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 13.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. As Jesus loves, even to death on the cross, so ought his disciples love one another. Indeed, love will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"The Day of Resurrection!"

Pastor Rayl

No. 361

(Please stand)

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

P: God in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Chancel Choir

"Mansion Over the Hilltop"

arr. Stan Pethel

Offering Prayer

P: Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in 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 Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed our 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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 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, 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.

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

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: The reign of God is at hand. Come, taste the joy prepared for you.

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."

(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: We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

C: 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

"Cornerstone"

Praise Singers
Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

READER

Lisa Anderson

ACOLYTE

Mason Schweizer

**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. 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 15, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

All God's All One

The first Christians, like Jesus and his closest followers, were Jewish. Many of them believed that if non-Jews were to be baptized, they would have to agree to live according to the basics of Jewish law. Peter's vision converted him to a radically new way of thinking about this. It is not that the formerly unclean must take on the characteristics of the clean; it's that "clean" and "unclean" have lost their distinctions in the full splendor of God's creation.

There was a popular creation account in ancient Israel in which God was said to have defeated and destroyed the great sea monster, a symbol of chaos, to make way for the order of creation (see Psalm 74:12-17). In Psalm 148, however, every last created thing joins in a common chorus of praise: the domestic animals and the wild ones, the clean and the unclean, all the different peoples of the world, even the sea monsters. As Peter discovered, God does not play favorites; God is equally concerned for all creation.

If the Holy Spirit dwells in those we consider "other" as well as in us, then we don't have to rely only on the power of our own love. Instead, we discover, as Peter and Cornelius did, that we are already connected by the Spirit who lives in each of us, making us one as Jesus and the Father are one. This is the grace that undergirds Jesus' new commandment. We are not asked to love one another by our own heroic efforts; we are invited to discover the Love that already connects us more deeply than common culture or genes. Since we, like the early Christians, find ourselves to be connected in the Spirit to truly different people, we can join them in praising God for this wide embrace.