

September 11, 2022

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## The Saying Is Sure

The gospel--the good news--is in the epistle today. It is Paul's letter to Timothy. He writes, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the foremost." What a blessing to be able to join in Paul's confessing and what consolation is connected to that confession.

The Pharisees see it but cannot believe it: "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." We have to recognize that we are sinners before we are able to take comfort in that simple, pharisaic observation.

The problem is not just that we are lost, but that we won't admit it. The cliché, not without at least some truth, is that most men won't ask for directions. Today we are brought to a more serious, universal truth: All of us frequently fail to admit our sinfulness. Tragically, that pride causes us to forgo Christ's forgiveness.

Jesus helps us with his two simple stories in the gospel--one about a lost sheep, one about a lost coin. The stories are designed to illustrate God's passion for the recovery of the lost. But both stories are impossible to appreciate and incorporate until one recognizes that, "I am the lost sheep. I am the lost coin." Too often we are too ashamed to *face* the truth--let alone to *tell* the truth.

But Jesus joins us at the table again today. He is truly present in, with, and under the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of sin. His body was broken; his blood was shed, for us. Jesus has a penchant for sinners--such as we are--just as we are.

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician

Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister

Toni Wilbarger - Office Manager



**Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community**

**September 11, 2022 - 10:30 am**

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**14th Sunday After Pentecost**

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
10:30 am	Late Worship

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at [www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com). Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School begins September 18th and 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Sunday School beginning September 18<sup>th</sup> in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: First year class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. Second year class will be held from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm every other Sunday. Both classes begin next week.

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.

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## 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.



*PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE*

**ELDERS**

Jeff Ladd, Dave Wilbarger

**READER**

Carol Haar

**SOUND BOARD**

Dave Wilbarger

*ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am*

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

Opening Hymn "Abide, O Dearest Jesus" No. 539

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

**C: Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy One,

**C: we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

**C: Amen.**

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray. O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Announcements**

### FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

*Before this, Moses receives instructions from God on Mount Sinai. Meanwhile, the people grow rebellious and decide to make a golden calf. This reading suggests a court setting where God acts as the prosecuting attorney and Moses serves as the defense attorney in a lawsuit against the people.*

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " <sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " <sup>14</sup>And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 51:1-11

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness. (Ps. 51:1)*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**<sup>4</sup>Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.**

<sup>5</sup>And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment.

**<sup>6</sup>Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

<sup>7</sup>For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**<sup>8</sup>Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

<sup>9</sup>Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

### 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.)*

### Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

### Prayer After Communion

P: Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

### 9/11 Remembrance

*"God Bless Our Native Land"*

No. 891

### Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn

*"Because He Lives"*

words on screen

### Dismissal

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

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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.**

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

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

### **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: In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

*(Please be seated)*

**<sup>10</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

### **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

*The letters to Timothy are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice intended for church leaders. Here, mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

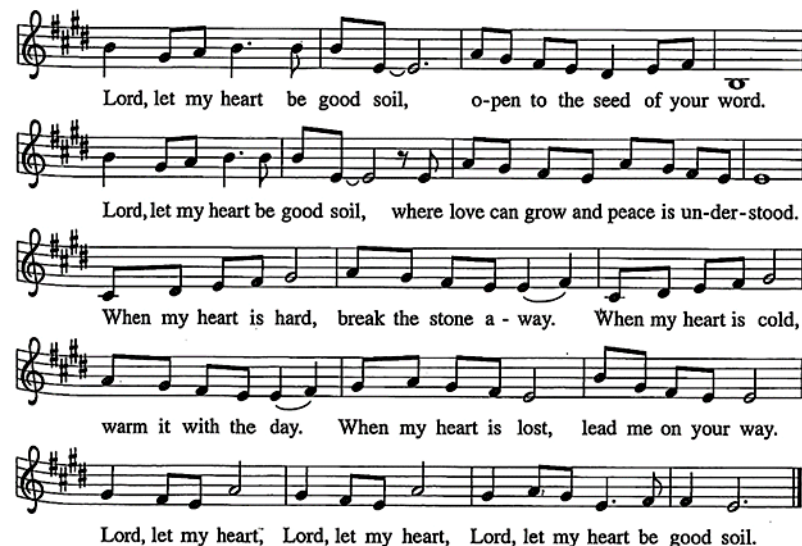
I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup>even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

### **Gospel Acclamation**



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,  
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 15 .

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10**

*Jesus tells two stories about repentance to indicate that God takes the initiative in finding us. We are precious to God, and our recovery brings joy in heaven.*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]  
<sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?

<sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

## Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

*"Just As I Am"*

Pastor Rayl

No. 592

*(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.

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

P: God in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

## The Offering

### Offertory Music

Dr. Pattin

### Offering Prayer

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**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: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

P: We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.