

September 4, 2022

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## Carry On!

It is very nearly a cinematic cliché. The commanding officer surveys his assembled troops. He details for them the difficulties that lie ahead. Everyone stands at rigid attention. The situation is grave. The orders are clear. But at the end of the speech the commander smiles, assures them of his support and leadership, and says, "Carry on."

Our Lord's words in the gospel bring us to rigid attention today. "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple." It may be hyperbole, but it is holy hyperbole.

Disciples follow. That is what disciples do. To be a disciple of Jesus one needs to know where Jesus is headed. The gospel writer makes it clear earlier when he writes, "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). The destination is Jerusalem, outside the walls of which there is a place called The Skull. Those who would be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ must understand that the Christian journey always leads to the cross.

Jesus underscores the gravity of discipleship with the words, "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." For the church there is warning in these words. Unless we are willing to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of others, all the activity in which we engage is just so much "carrying on."

We stand before the altar today, brought to rigid attention by the cost of discipleship. We hear our Lord say, "This is my body, for you. This is my blood. Remember me." Can we receive these words as both a costly *and* gracious invitation to "Carry on" Christ's ministry in the world?

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

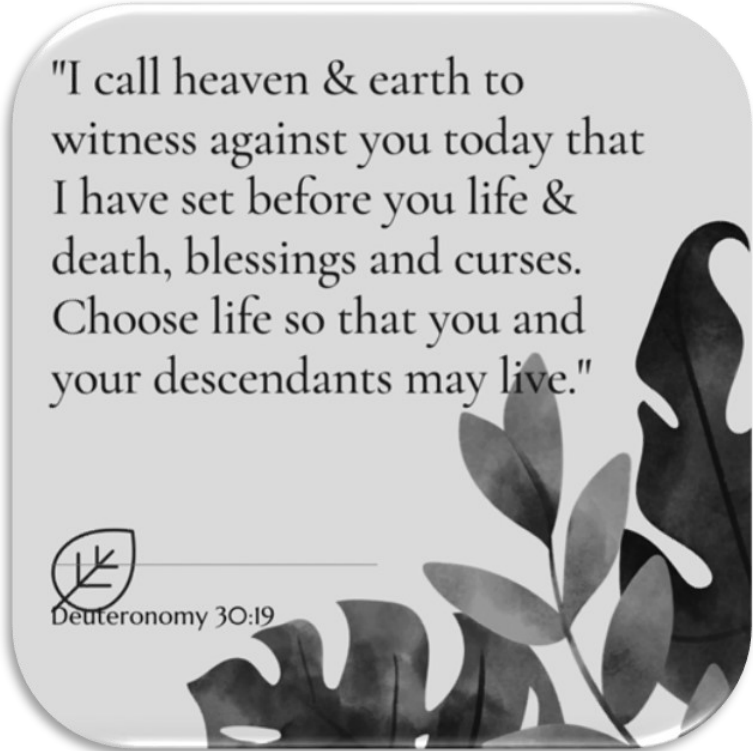
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician  
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister  
Toni Wilbarger - Office Manager



"I call heaven & earth to  
witness against you today that  
I have set before you life &  
death, blessings and curses.  
Choose life so that you and  
your descendants may live."



Deuteronomy 30:19

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

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**13th Sunday After Pentecost**

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](http://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.

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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.



**Dismissal**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

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***PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE***

**ELDERS**

Jeff Smith, Ted Hagedorn

**READER**

Joanne Henningsen

**SOUND BOARD**

Amy Nelson

***ORDER OF WORSHIP***

Prelude  
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song      *"How Firm a Foundation"*      No. 796

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

D: 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.*

D: 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.**

D: 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**

D: 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**

D: Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Announcements**

### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*Life and blessing are the benefits of keeping the law God has given through Moses. In this passage, Moses presents the consequences of choosing between life and death.*

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 1**

*Their delight is in the law of the LORD. (Ps. 1:2)*

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**<sup>2</sup>Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

**<sup>4</sup>It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**<sup>6</sup>For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

### **SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21**

*While Paul was in prison, a runaway slave named Onesimus helped him. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master, but he encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a brother.*

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God

<sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus.

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.

*(Please be seated)*

### **The Offering**

### **Offertory Music**

Dr. Pattin

### **Offering Prayer**

D: 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.**

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

D: 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**

D: 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

*"Take My Life, That I May Be"*

No. 685

## Gospel Acclamation

D: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 14.

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

### **GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset they will have to renounce allegiance to all competing concerns.*

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

## Gospel Response

D: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON Deacon Laura Scherer  
Sermon Hymn "O Master, Let Me Walk With You" No. 818

*(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.

<sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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.