

October 23, 2022

20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## Turning the Tables

"My soul magnifies the Lord. . . . [God] has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty," Mary sang after the angel Gabriel told her she would be the mother of Jesus (Luke 2:46, 52-53). Her hymn of thanksgiving foreshadows a frequent theme in the Gospel of Luke: under God's rule, roles will be reversed.

Interpreters of the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, which we heard in today's gospel reading, have sometimes cast the Pharisee as a villain and the tax collector as a hero. The Pharisee, who confidently reminded God of his own faithfulness, and the tax collector, who beat his breast and confessed his own unworthiness, each got what he deserved, we are told. The point of the parable, however, is not about who merited God's favor. The point is that God justified the ungodly tax collector--contrary to what we might expect.

We are reminded daily of the brokenness of our world. Polluted waters and skies are signs that the relationship between humanity and the rest of creation is broken. Wars among nations and feuds within families reflect the brokenness of relationships among people. Our pathetic attempts to rely on ourselves and take charge of our own life are rooted in our broken relationship with God, who alone rules the universe.

Into the heart of all that is broken, however, comes Jesus, and the forces of sin and death are drowned. As we bathe each new member of God's family in the waters of baptism, God works the ultimate reversal: In this new world, righteousness and life reign. As we share in the thanksgiving feast served at God's table, God nourishes us for this new creation. All that was broken has been made whole.

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

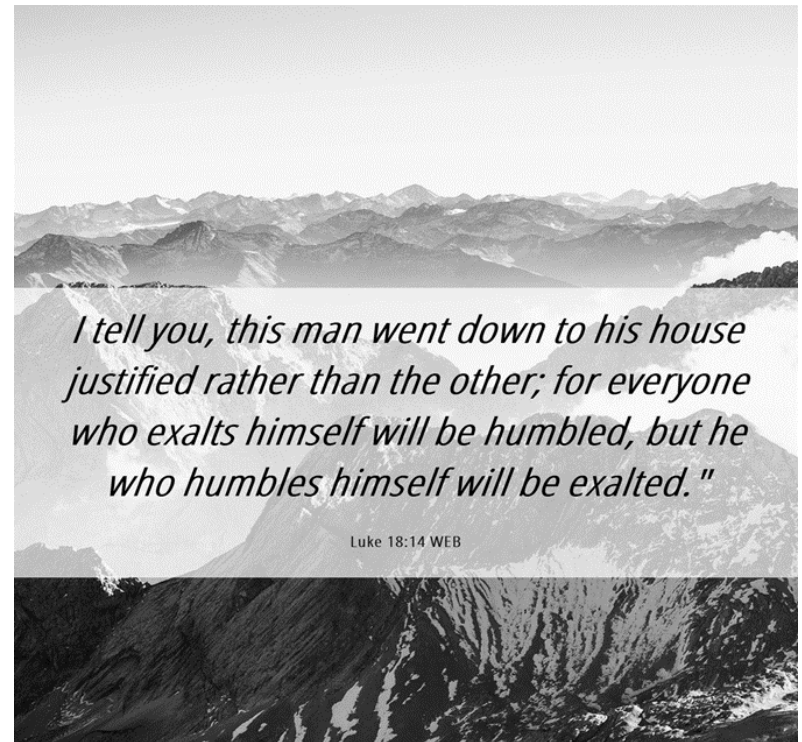
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



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

**October 23, 2022 - 10:30 am**

**October 23, 2022                      20th 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
9:15 am	Sunday School / 1st Year Catechism
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:30 am	2nd Year Catechism every other Sunday

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 meets at 9:15 am in the Youth Room area in the basement of the Educational Building.

Children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School 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 meet every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

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 lounge. 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.

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**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: 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    *"O Master, Let Me Walk With You"*

No. 818

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

**ELDERS**

Jeff Ladd, Dave Wilbarger

**READER**

Toni Wilbarger

**SOUND BOARD**

Andy Hodges

<sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

### Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON  
Sermon Hymn

"O Christ, Our Hope"

Pastor Rayl  
No. 604

*(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

#### 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.

## *ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am*

Prelude  
Ringing of the Bell

Dr. Pattin

Opening Song "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"

No. 658

### 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. Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### Announcements

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 14:7-10**

*The prophet identifies with his people in this anguished prayer following the onslaught of the Babylonians and the destruction of Jerusalem.*

Although our iniquities testify against us,  
act, O LORD, for your name's sake;  
our apostasies indeed are many,  
and we have sinned against you.

<sup>8</sup>O hope of Israel,  
its savior in time of trouble,  
why should you be like a stranger in the land,  
like a traveler turning aside for the night?  
<sup>9</sup>Why should you be like someone confused,  
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?  
Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,  
and we are called by your name;  
do not forsake us!

<sup>10</sup>Thus says the LORD concerning this people:  
Truly they have loved to wander,  
they have not restrained their feet;  
therefore the LORD does not accept them,  
now he will remember their iniquity  
and punish their sins.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 84:1-7**

*Happy are the people whose strength is in you. (Ps. 84:4)*

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> **My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are those who live in your house,  
ever singing your praise.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

<sup>6</sup> **As they go through the valley of Baca,  
they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

<sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength;  
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

*The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who is now facing death. Though others have let him down, Paul is sure of his faith in the Lord, who has stood by him and lent him strength.*

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come.

<sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
<sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

<sup>16</sup>At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the 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 18.

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

**GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14**

*At the time of Jesus, Pharisees were regarded as exceptionally religious persons, and tax collectors were treated as outcasts. Here Jesus contrasts the two in a surprising way to make a point about approaching God in humbleness.*

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.