

November 13, 2022

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Soon and Very Soon

Wars and insurrections. Nation against nation. Earthquakes. Famines and plagues. Dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. These are just some of the signs, Jesus taught his followers, that the end of the world as we know it is drawing near. But where is the good news in that?

These great signs remind us first that God is in charge. The world is not simply going to spin out of control someday. The world will end in God's time and in a manner God chooses. For Christians, the end of the world is nothing to be afraid of. It is another reminder that we belong to God; we are the work of God's hand and of great worth in God's eyes.

Signs that the end is near also call us to pay attention to the way we carry out our Christian calling and live in Christian community. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we "walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4). Today, we live according to the Spirit given to us in baptism and provide the world with a foretaste of God's coming new creation. We are living witnesses to the hope that God has given us.

The Christian community's celebration of the eucharistic meal shows us most clearly what God's new world will look like. Yes, there will be "dreadful portents and great signs" between now and then. But today, when we gather at God's banquet table, we experience the intimate communion God intends for a reconciled world. When we dine with God, there is no distinction between Jew and Gentile, male and female, rich and poor. We bask in God's presence in the meal, while the warnings and signs remind us that "soon and very soon," justice and peace will rule over all creation.

First St. John Lutheran Church

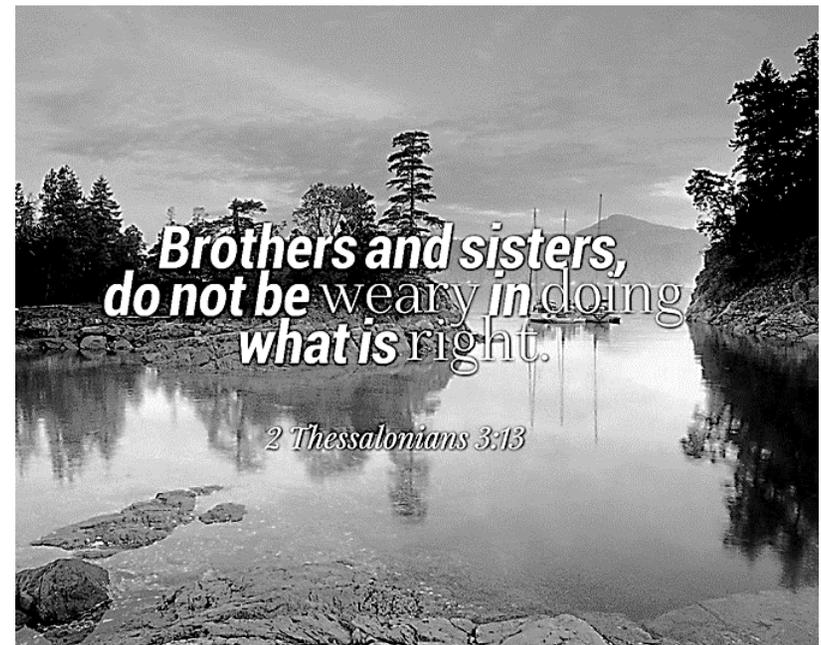
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

November 13, 2022 - 10:30 am

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23rd 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. 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 5th 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.

2022 POINSETTIA SALE

SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



Fill in the form below to place your order for poinsettias to be used during worship at Christmas time. You can place this form with payment in the offering plate or mail it in to the church office. Payment must accompany orders. Checks payable to: **First St. John**

Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 11th.

Number of plants @ \$15.00 each _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

Color (circle one) Red White

Name _____

Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) _____

In Honor of (Living) _____

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Darold Henninger, Kevin Ruedy

READER

Tom Hartford

SOUND BOARD

Amy Nelson

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude

Dr. Pattin

(Please stand)

Ring of the Bell

Opening Hymn "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

No. 414

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, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a

Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that the day of the Lord is coming and it will bring doom to the evil but vindication to those who fear God.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98

He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity. (Ps. 98:9)

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

² **The Lord has made known his victory;**

he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;**

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,

with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn**

make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

⁷ Let the sea roar and all that fills it,

the world and those who live in it.

⁸ **Let the floods clap their hands;**

let the hills sing together for joy

⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Because they believed in the nearness of Christ's return, some people had stopped working, preferring to live on the generosity of others in the community. Paul warns them that if they want to eat, they need to work.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate.

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.

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

"Soon and Very Soon"

No. 439

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Pattin

⁹"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON Pastor Rayl
Sermon Hymn "Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand" No. 441

(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

¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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 21.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19

Luke's presentation of Jesus' teaching about the last days emphasizes the necessity for responsible behavior in the time between Jesus' ascension and the second coming.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶"As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.