

## First St. John Lutheran Church

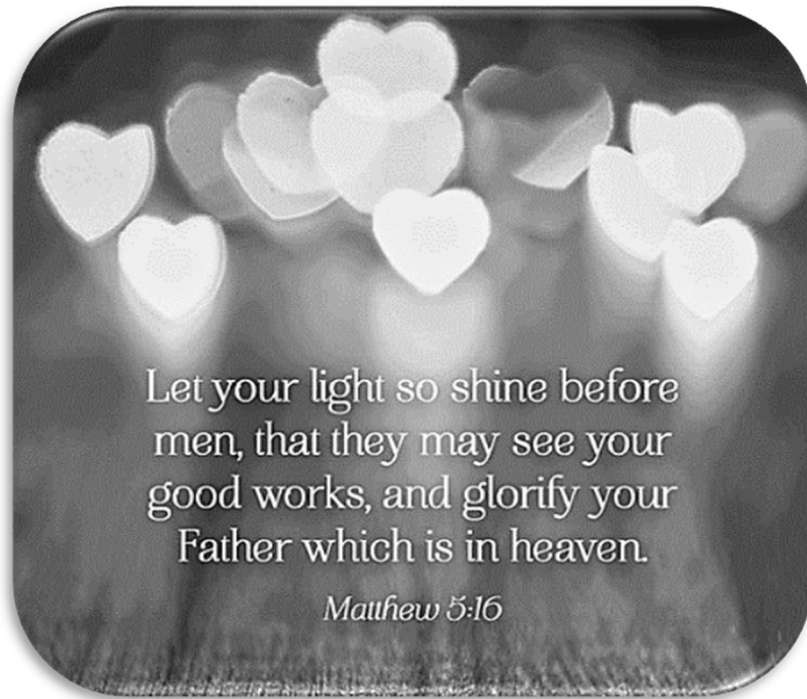
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

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



**February 5, 2023**

**Fifth Sunday of Epiphany**

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.

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

**February 5, 2023 - 10:30 am**

## ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Dr. Pattin

Ring of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Hymn “Blest Are They” No. 728, v. 1-3

### Introduction

P: Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the Light of the World, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

### 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, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

**C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ whom you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### Announcements

#### **FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 58:1-12**

*After the Israelites returned from exile in Babylon, they were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 112:1-10**

*They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)*

Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord,  
who greatly delight in his commandments.

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
and their righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> **They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;  
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

<sup>5</sup> It is well with those who deal generously and lend,  
who conduct their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For the righteous will never be moved;  
they will be remembered forever.**

<sup>7</sup> They are not afraid of evil tidings;  
their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> **Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;  
in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

<sup>9</sup> They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever;  
their horn is exalted in honor.

<sup>10</sup> **The wicked see it and are angry;  
they gnash their teeth and melt away;  
the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

#### **SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

*People like the Corinthians are enamored of human philosophy and wisdom, but Paul presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

#### **Gospel Acclamation**





### **Gospel Announcement**

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 5.

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

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20**

*Jesus encourages His followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"Christ, Be Our Light"

Pastor Rayl

No. 715

*(Please stand)*

### **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
for us and for our salvation

He came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(Please be seated)*

### **The Offering**

### **Offertory Music**

Dr. Pattin

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

C: **Amen.**

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

P: God in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

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.

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

Closing Hymn                      *"Blest Are They"*                      No. 728, v. 3-5

**P:** Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Postlude Dr. Pattin

\* \* \* \* \*

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Jeff Smith, Ted Hagedorn

Vanessa Miller, Aubrey Swartz

Toni Wilbarger

Dave Wilbarger

## 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.



### Becoming Salt and Light

The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 begins with Jesus offering a series of blessings followed by a commission. Jesus leaves no ambiguity for his followers, commissioning them by stating, “You are the salt of the earth. . . . You are the light of the world.”

As a master teacher Jesus uses common elements of his day, salt and light, to illustrate his point. In Biblical times, salt was used to preserve food which might otherwise rot and decay in the heat. As a preservative, salt extended the length of time for food to be edible and was a valuable commodity, in part because of its permanence. Pure salt does not lose its taste over time. Salt remains salt. It is a needed element for a human body to live.

God so loved the world that Christ was sent to live with impure humanity, to walk with those who were unworthy, to eat with sinners, and to bring life. Jesus commissions his followers to do the same. You are salt. Be present in a confused and dying world. Extend life in Christ. Make a difference.

Jesus also proclaims his followers to be light in the world. There is no crash course for becoming light, no manual to read. It is by the grace of God a follower of Jesus shines. Jesus offers encouragement to his disciples: “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16 NRSV) Let God’s light shine through you. Let God light your candle.

The message and mission of Jesus is not to be lost. We are to tell his story again and again, from one generation to the next.