

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

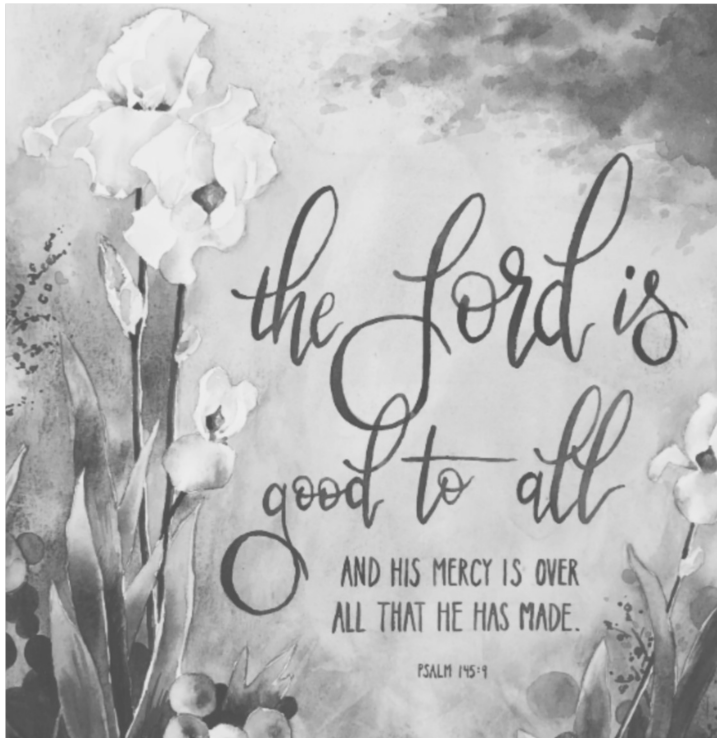
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician  
Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir, Director  
Jennifer Hess, Office Manager  
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister



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

**July 9, 2023 - 9:00 am**

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**Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Through the Summer months we offer one service. Holy Communion will be celebrated every Sunday throughout the Summer.

9:00 am

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

**SMILE! YOU'RE ON CAMERA:** Please remember you may be on camera during the livestream and the recording of the service.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

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

**ELDERS**

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

**READER**

Lisa Anderson

**SOUND BOARD**

Mark Ackerman

## ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

**Prelude** Dr. Anthony Pattin

**Ring of the Bell** (Please Stand)

**Opening Hymn** “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” No.759

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share the peace of the Lord.

### **Sharing of the Peace**

*The congregation may greet one another by shaking hands, fist bumping, or any other form of greeting with the words, “Peace be with you.”*

*We conclude the sharing of the peace by singing:*

*“Lord I Lift Your Name on High” No. 857*

***“Lord I lift your name on high;  
Lord I love to sing your praises,  
I’m so glad you’re in my life,  
I’m so glad you came to save us.***

***You came from heaven to earth to show the way.  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift your name on high.”***

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **Announcements**

#### **Introduction**

The mystery of God’s ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God’s mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ’s invitation: “Come to me, all you that are weary.” Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

#### **FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-10**

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God’s covenant with Israel, the people are designated as “prisoners of hope.”*

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
 and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
 and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
 and he shall command peace to the nations;  
 his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
 and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14 (congregation responds in BOLD)**

*The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)*

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all,  
 and your compassion is over all your works.**  
<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O LORD,  
 and your faithful ones shall bless you.  
<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
 and speak of your power,**  
<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power  
 and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your  
 dominion endures throughout all ages.  
 You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving  
 in all your works.**  
<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
 and lifts up those who are bowed down.

**SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a**

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel Announcement**

P: The Gospel according to Matthew Chapter 11.

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup>“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
 we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

**Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

**Sermon Hymn**

*"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"*

No. 611

*(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: Hear us O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*(Please be seated)*

**The Offering**

**Offertory Music**

"From This Day Forward"

Cheri Sergent

**Offering Prayer**

P: Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

**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 our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

P: And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and 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.

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: To you, O God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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: Come and know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

**C: We come at our Lord's command.**

**The Communion** *(distribution will be continuous)*

*"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.*

*Infant 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 if you are not receiving the bread and wine."*

*If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.*

*(After all have received communion, please stand.)*

P: Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show our love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing**

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation..

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**      *"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"*      No.697

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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## SERMON NOTES:

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July 9, 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### **Holy Rest**

Nothing feels better after a long hard day than finding a quiet place and getting a few moments of rest. Unfortunately, rest is becoming increasingly elusive for us these days. Family commitments, jobs (sometimes more than one), home maintenance, volunteer work, travel, and community involvement seem to consume every moment of our time and energy. Even recreation is something we squeeze into our hectic schedules. No wonder we're so tired!

Some of us take the same approach to our faith lives. We cram as many testaments to our faith into each week as possible. We worship regularly, serve on several church committees, attend a Bible study, volunteer with the youth group, sing in the choir, and more. Sometimes, especially when we are tired, we can at least comfort ourselves with the knowledge that we are being "good church people."

But is this what Jesus means when he says "Come to me" and "Take my yoke upon you" in today's gospel reading? Is Jesus recommending one more activity to be added to our already overcrowded schedules? Or is Jesus inviting us instead to consider where true rest and peace can be found?

Jesus invites all those who are burdened by their own efforts to create meaning or to prove themselves worthy in the eyes of God or others to entrust themselves to God's gracious care and providing. Jesus invites us into a rest that goes beyond physical refreshment. This is a rest that calms all of our striving and doing, all of our anxious efforts to save ourselves, with the assurance that both our present and our future are secure in God's grace. In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God has taken care of our present and future better than a lifetime of worthy activities and good deeds ever could.