

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

2471 Seaman Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43605  
419-691-7222

[office@firststjohn.com](mailto:office@firststjohn.com)

[www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

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 2, 2023 - 9:00 am**

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**Fifth 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**

Jeff Smith, Ted Hagedorn

**READER**

Tom Hartford

**SOUND BOARD**

Beth Huguely

## ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

**Prelude** Dr. Anthony Pattin

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

**Opening Hymn** “Before You, Lord, We Bow” No.893

### **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: O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **Announcements**

#### **Introduction**

The welcome of baptism is for all God’s children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today’s gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God’s merciful welcome

#### **PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18**

*Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)*

<sup>1</sup>Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup>**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup>“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:  
<sup>4</sup>**I will establish your line forever,  
 and preserve your throne for all generations.**  
<sup>15</sup>Happy are the people who know the festal shout!  
 They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.  
<sup>16</sup>**They rejoice daily in your name;  
 they are jubilant in your righteousness.**  
<sup>17</sup>For you are the glory of their strength,  
 and by your favor our might is exalted.  
<sup>18</sup>**Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD;  
 our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

**FIRST READING: Romans 6:12-23**

*Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.*

<sup>12</sup>Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

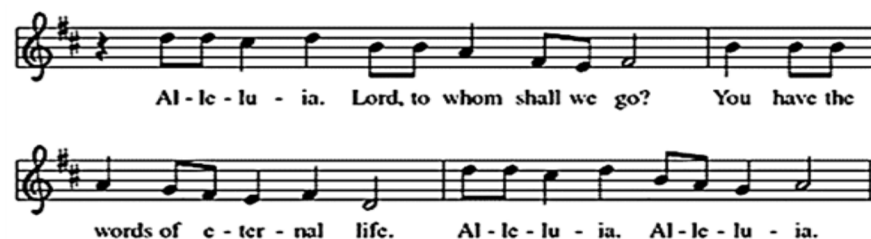
<sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

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 10.

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>40</sup>“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

**Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Rayl

**Sermon Hymn** “O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate” No. 722

*(Please stand)*

**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**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

## 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.

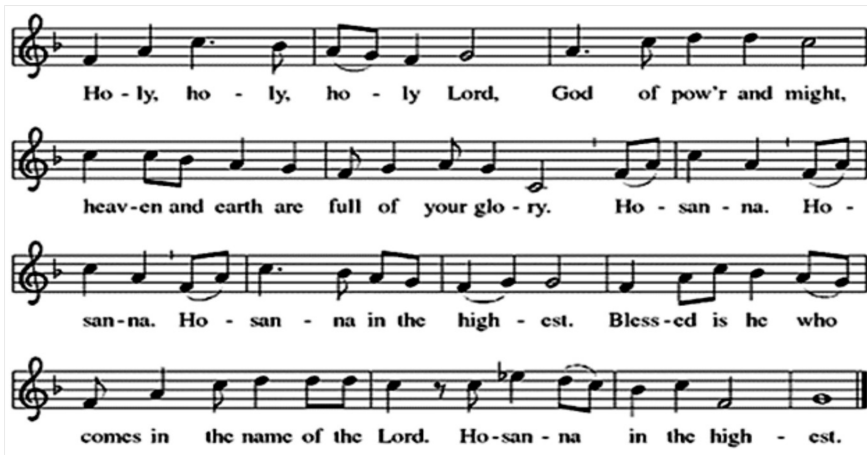
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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.

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

**Fourth of July Presentation**

*“The Star Spangled Banner”*

“O say can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave”

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**SERMON NOTES:**

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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.



*July 2, 2023*

*FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

## **Patriotism and Prayer**

Many of us, when asked about patriotism, will think of the American flag, fireworks, parades and the American soldier. Often, the idea of God or prayer is not linked to patriotism at all. However, our nation was birthed out of prayer.

The Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776 was first preempted with our Founding Fathers praying during the first Continental Congress meeting on September 7th, 1774. For nearly two years, delegates prayed for a nation under God. George Washington wrote in his diary at the time, "Went to church and fasted all day." John Adams wrote in his diary, "God grant us wisdom and fortitude." Tom Cushing, also moved by prayer, asked the Continental Congress to be opened up in prayer and his motion was passed. A nation under God was born.

God's design for all nations and people is the same, to do His good works, and to daily lift up His name in prayer for all. Paul wrote to Timothy as well to remind him of the call to prayer daily (I Timothy 2:1-2): "First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered on behalf of all men for kings and all those in authority, so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives in all godliness and dignity." Praying for our nation can include prayers for revival, for strengthening of families, for protection from evil, and for God's will to be done in our land.

American liberty is a blessing from God. Because of our freedom, we can express our faith and boldly share it with others. Framing patriotism in the context of our Christian faith will help us guide the next generation of citizens whose love of America is well-balanced with their love for God. Celebrate your freedoms and the blessings that we have been given and give thanks daily that we were all created 'Under God'.