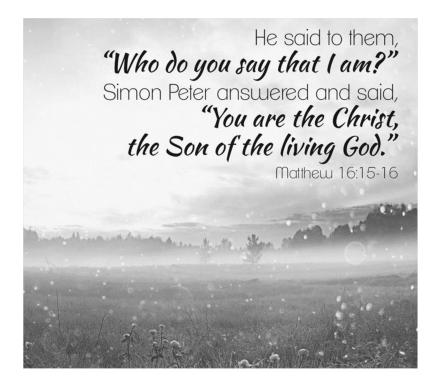
#### First St. John Lutheran Church

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

office@firststjohn.com www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Joan Walldorf, Director of Music Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir, Director Jennifer Hess, Office Manager



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

August 27, 2023 - 9:00 am

#### **August 27, 2023**

**Thirteenth 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. 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.

<u>IMPORTANT REMINDER</u>: 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.

<u>FLOWERS</u>: 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**

Carol Haar

# **SOUND BOARD**

**Amy Nelson** 

#### ORDER OF WORSHIP-9:00 am

**Prelude** Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringing of the Bell (Please Stand)

Opening Hymn "O Holy Spirit, Enter In" No.786

# **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, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

# **Announcements**

# <u>Introduction</u>

In Isaiah, the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table, we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-3

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### **SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8**

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, Godpleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in

exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

#### GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

#### Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

<u>Sermon Hymn</u> "My Hope is Built on Nothing Else"

No. 597

(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.

# <u>Pastoral Prayer</u> (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.

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:



- 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 is 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  $\pm$  Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation..

C: Amen.

**Closing Hymn** 

"O Savior, Precious Savior"

No.820

# **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** 

Dr. Anthony Pattin



# PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

+ + + + + + + + + + + +

Please purchase full size items.



dish soapshampoo, childdisposable razorspaper towellaundry soaptoothbrush, adulttoilet paperfabric softener sheetstoothpaste, adulttissuesbody lotionsanitary padsdeodorantbody soapband 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 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. We welcome monetary donations as well. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



# LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES of Northwestern Ohio

Strengthening People in Body, Mind and Spirit

This month's ministry outreach is Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio. Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio assists people within a 24-county area and provides hope and compassion. With multiple service sites throughout NW Ohio, they serve all ages, faiths, races and economic statuses with professional and confidential services.

When you're not sure where to turn.

# Life.Support.

Life is full of challenges. Our ability to cope with these challenges are as different as our individual personalities. Whether you're facing an addiction, depression or struggling with one of life's stressful moments, no one ever said you had to overcome it alone.

Support is the mission of Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio. For more than 100 years we have been supporting those in need throughout northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan with hope, compassion and stability.

Did you know? Our own Personal Needs Pantry is scheduled though Lutheran Social Services!

Visit **www.lssnwo.org** for more info. Phone: 419-243-9178

# **God Gives Us the Answer**

Jesus' question to his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" might sound like a serious challenge to their faith and faithfulness. The question certainly left open the possibility that the disciples would give the wrong answer. After all, rumors among the crowds who followed Jesus--who heard his preaching and teaching, and witnessed his healing--proposed that Jesus was John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. All these people were believed to be mere forerunners of the Messiah. Would the disciples get it right?

Peter did. He answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus, perhaps amazed by his confession, responded, "Blessed are you, Simon! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven."

The good news for us in this exchange is profound. It is not up to us, flesh-and-blood folks, to figure out who Jesus is. That truth is revealed to us by God, who speaks through the Holy Spirit to call and enlighten us. We do not have to rely on our own understanding or strength to come to God. The one who made the world also creates faith in us. God gives us the answer!

The giver of all good continues to watch over us into eternity. Having called us through baptism, the Spirit makes us holy and keeps us in relationship with God. Our Advocate abundantly forgives our sins and continues to nurture our faith through the bread and wine of holy communion. When we are in need of healing or consolation, the Comforter speaks to us through the communion of saints, ever reminding us of God's love and concern for all creation.

Who do you say Jesus is? Listen! God is telling you!