

First St. John Lutheran Church

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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

All Saints Sunday

But the holy people of the
Most High will receive the
kingdom and will possess it
forever—yes, for ever and
ever.

Daniel 7:18

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

November 5, 2023 - 8:00 am

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All Saints Sunday

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	JAM Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:45 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

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!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets at 9:15 am in the lounge every Sunday.

CHILDREN AGES 3 THROUGH 5TH GRADE will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (JAM Room).

2ND YEAR CATECHISM CLASSES: Second year class will meet every other Sunday at 11:45 am.

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.

Prelude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringling of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Hymn “For All the Saints” (verse 1-5 only) No. 422

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ☩ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding. God’s compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

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.

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;
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: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord’s table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today’s reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: “Who is able to stand?” The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God’s protection and a vision of victory.

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22— Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

¹I will bless the Lord at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

²**I will glory in the Lord;
let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt God's name together.

⁴**I sought the Lord, who answered me
and delivered me from all my terrors.**

⁵Look upon the Lord and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶**I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

⁷The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord
and delivers them.

⁸**Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who take refuge in God!**

⁹Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,
for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.**

²²O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

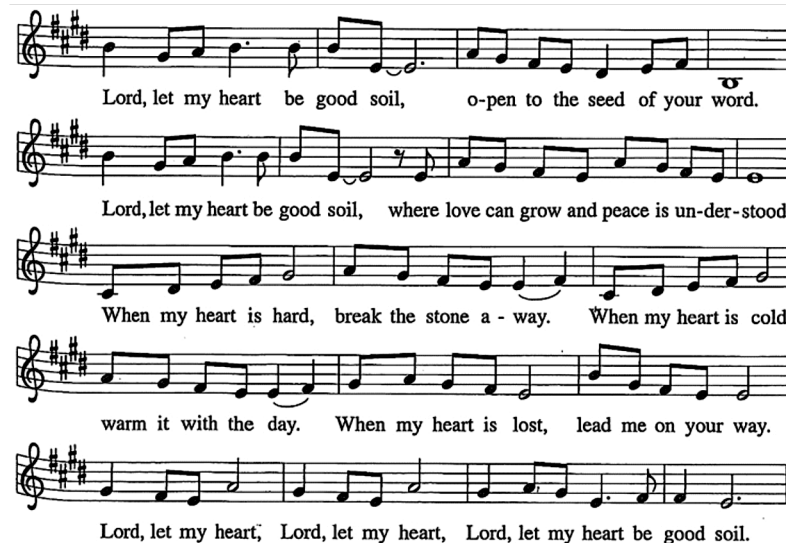
¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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 Matthew Chapter 5.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

“*Shall We Gather at the River*”

No.423

(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: Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offertory Music

FSJ Bell Choir
Cheri Sergent, Director

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Litany for All Saints Sunday

P: Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life,

C: we glorify you.

P: Jesus Christ, the resurrection and life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life,

C: we praise you.

P: Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope,

C: we worship you.

P: To you, O blessed Trinity (+) be glory and honor, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

P: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

C: Praise be to Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Reading of the names of the departed:

William G. Wiener II	11/24/1949 -12/10/2022
Germaine G. Schuh	01/23/1933 -12/27/2022
Richard C. Counterman	12/31/1937 - 1/04/2023
Nancy L. Gallaher	09/20/1933 - 2/05/2023
Kenneth DeWitt, Sr.	07/11/1946 - 2/09/2023
Donald L. Meyer	12/18/1926 - 2/12/2023
Paulette S. Giaimo	11/09/1945 - 3/30/2023
Brenda L. Seimet	10/04/1954 - 4/03/2023
Irene C. Abbott	11/20/1929 - 4/16/2023
Jean E. DeWitt	11/16/1926 - 5/11/2023
Louise M. Sommers	09/01/1936 – 7/07/2023
Charles L. Nelms Jr	05/28/1927 – 7/17/2023
Norma J. Newell	11/06/1930 – 08/03/2023
Peggy J. Torda	11/19/1954 – 08/27/2023
Susan M. Seibert	04/03/1962 – 09/22/2023
Herbert C. Frey	01/04/1930 - 10/25/2023

And we also honor and remember these friends & family members:

Ken & Lola Abbey	Rev. Gerald & Ilean Labuhn
Dick & Joan Bailey	Joyce Martin
Fred & Helen Bailey	Annette McGorty
Richard Bell	Mariann Miller
Sally Bell	Carl “Dutch” Morrison
Ernie Bollinger	Paul Mullen Sr.
Bonnie Campos	Chuck Neal
Sandra Counterman-Frazier	Cindy Perkins
Bob DeWitt	Andrea Schumaker
Gary DeWitt	Arnold & Edythe Scherer
James Gallaher	Tim Smith
Brenda Nissen Gilbertson	William Stahl
Clarence & Iva Grant	David Winslow
Larry Grant	Sharon Winslow
Larry Haar	William Winslow
Judith Hirth	Kenneth Yard
Floyd Hagedorn	
Joanne Harrell	

P: God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death, and by his resurrection he has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Make us certain that because he lives, we shall live also, and that neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come shall be able to separate us from the love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

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, through your Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

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.

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

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

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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: There is a place for you at the banquet.

C: Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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. Infants, 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 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: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn "Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In"

See next page

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bill Nelson, Mike Winslow

READER

Joanne Henningsen

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In

1 Oh, when the saints go march - ing in, oh, when the
 2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the
 3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the
 4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they
 5 And on that hal - le - lu - jah day, and on that

saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that
 Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that
 new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that
 gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that
 hal - le - lu - jah day, O Lord, I want to be in that

num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.
 num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.
 num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.
 num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.
 num - ber on that hal - le - lu - jah day.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE FUNDRAISER

SPONSORED BY WELCA

Please consider helping WELCA with their Christmas Cookie Sale that will be held on December 10th after both services. To participate and help raise funds plan to bring your baked cookies on Saturday, Dec 9th



between 10-12pm. All types of cookies, fudge, bars, or bark accepted. There is a sign-up sheet available in the lounge on a clipboard or complete the form below and place in the offering plate. All funds raised will be donated to the Property Management group to help with maintenance and repairs in the building. Contact Sue Ann Rogers for more information (419) 280-1310.

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☒ I will plan to bake cookies for the fundraiser and bring them on Saturday, December 9th between 10-12pm.

Name _____

Phone _____

Type of Cookie or dessert:

Quantity: _____

*****Drop in the offering plate*****

2023 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 10th.

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

Color (circle one) Red White

Name _____

Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) _____

In Honor of (Living) _____

November 5, 2023

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On Our Way Rejoicing

Many Christians will take time today, All Saints Sunday, to remember family and friends of members who have died this past year. Individuals and families will set a burning candle or fresh flowers, springtime signs of the resurrection, next to a photograph of a loved one. Congregations will also remember those who have gone before us. Perhaps loved ones will be listed in the worship folder and named in the prayer of the church. In some congregations, worshipers will be invited to come to the altar and light a candle or say a brief prayer of thanks for the life of God's faithful witnesses.

Worshipers might also be invited to come to the baptismal font, dip their fingers in the water, and trace the cross of Christ on their forehead, because All Saints Sunday is an especially fitting day to remember our baptism. In baptism, God drowns the powers of sin and death and washes us clean, making us fit for life in heaven. Baptism is also God's gracious welcome into the family of God. By tracing a watery cross-sign, we are reminded that it is through baptism that God has made all of us saints.

As difficult as it might be to say goodbye to the saints who are now with God, we are reassured by Jesus' exhortation. He promises that although today we might be separated from loved ones by death, one day we will dwell in God's holy presence. Then we will be reunited in heaven with all God's chosen ones: "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven." With that promise, we can walk with rejoicing on the way God sets before us.