

## First St. John Lutheran Church

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

**May 5, 2024 - 10:30 am**

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**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

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
2:00 pm	Chapel Communion

*(2nd Sunday of the month)*

**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!

**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.

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## ***ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am***

**Prelude**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

**Ringling of the Bell**

**Opening Hymn**

*“I Come with Joy”*

No. 482

### **The Invocation**

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

**C: Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, (†) one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

**C: Amen.**

P: Behold, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

P: Behold, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Behold, here is water!

**C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

### **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:*

### **Hymn**

*“We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”*

No. 451

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **Announcements**

#### **Special Music**

*“Gospel Memories”*

FSJ Bell Choir  
Cheri Sergent, Director

### **Introduction**

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

### **FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48**

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 98** - Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**O Lord, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of  
Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

**Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes  
to judge the earth.**

The Lord will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

**SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6**

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we

love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

<sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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 St. John Chapter 15.

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

### **GOSPEL: John 15:9-17**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy

may be complete.

12“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

### **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

### **SERMON**

Pastor Rayl

**Sermon Hymn** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love” No. 708

*(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**

“You are Mine”

*FSJ Chancel Choir*

*Dr. Joan Walldorf, Director*

*Dr. Tony Pattin, Piano*

#### **Offering Prayer**

P: Let us Pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.  
Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised  
us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready  
to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

P: Hear us, O Lord.

C: **your mercy is great.**

#### **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.

#### **Blessing**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and  
the Spirit of Easter hope (†) bless you now and always.

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** “Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing” No. 389

**Dismissal**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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

**ELDERS**

Dick Haar, John Roth

**READER**

Carol Haar

**SOUND BOARD**

Amy Nelson

**SERMON NOTES:**

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# PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY URGENT NEEDS!

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	toothpaste, child	toothbrush, child

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.

\*denotes high need items for this month



May 5, 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## What Kind of Love?

When William Penn established Pennsylvania he called the settlement Philadelphia, which means "city of brotherly love." Reflecting his English Quaker ideals, Penn wanted people to live in peaceful harmony and to be open to all and tolerant of all.

Commanding us to love "as I have loved you" (John 15:12), Jesus commends love on a higher plain than sisterly or brotherly love. His is the love shown in Jerusalem on Good Friday; we are to love as he did on the cross, with a costly outpouring of life for all.

The Easter season celebrates the resurrection with the dark silhouette of the cross behind its blazing light. Jesus reached resurrection glory only through death, and while human nature prefers the easy road of trying to love without cost, cross-love is different. For Jesus there was no crown without a cross. We, too, must die in order to live.

Jesus commands us to love with Good Friday love, not mere tolerance or goodwill, though they, too, are important. He commands us to love the undeserving and those who revile and speak ill of us. To love the poor and downtrodden. To love the neighbor next door and the one 3,000 miles away. Faithful love is not a triumphal quest that pays no heed to sin's power; in point of fact, true love absorbs the shock of evil and death.

This is Jerusalem love. While others can teach us about brotherly love, only Christ shows us self-giving and costly-unto-death love. From him we learn that God is love, and that we love like him when our hearts beat with the compassion of God.