

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

April 14, 2024 - 10:30 am

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Third 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
11:45 am	2nd Year Catechism (every other Sunday)
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. 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Megan Amos, French Horn
Dr. Anthony Pattin, Piano

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn “Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!” No. 380

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

Let us Pray. Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, 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

Special Music

Megan Amos, French Horn
Dr. Anthony Pattin, Piano

Introduction

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today’s gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples’ food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God’s promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ’s death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus’ name.

[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided

to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 4—Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

¹Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

**²How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?**

³But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

**⁴When you are disturbed, do not sin;
ponder it on your beds, and be silent.**

⁵Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

**⁶There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.

**⁸I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

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.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

(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. Luke Chapter 24.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I

myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.”

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

No. 379

(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.

Pastoral Prayer

P: Hear us, O Lord.

C: your mercy is great.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Musical Offertory

“Come Unto Me” FSJ Chancel Choir
Dr. Joan Walldorf, Director
Dr. Anthony 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.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

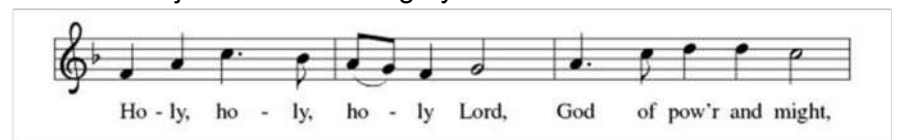
C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: 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.

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:



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.

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.

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 from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory

in your holy church, 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: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

(Please be seated)

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: Let us Pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: 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 *“Praise the Lord, Rise up Rejoice”* No. 544

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

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

READER

Bob Haar

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

April 14, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

This Is for Real

It happens when a friend tells a big fish story or hoodwinks us in good fun. Rightly suspecting a spoof we may say in jest, "Get real!" Jesus, too, administered a strong dose of reality therapy to his disciples after the resurrection. While the two Emmaus disciples were telling their story to the others he appeared among them with a greeting for friends: "Peace be with you."

They were terror stricken. Surely this was a talking ghost! But he kept on talking and asked why they doubted despite witnesses and his very presence? "This is for real!" said his flesh and bones. His last therapeutic dose was asking for food, since no ghost eats fish.

Jesus was ridding his disciples of crippling fear. They were to witness not to a ghost but to the Messiah's death and rising by proclaiming repentance and forgiveness in his name. We too must throw aside our misperceptions, since CAT scans, MRIs, microscopes, and slide rules cannot measure all human experience. Perhaps we sense a hint of Jesus' presence in another person's self-giving love, or when the rising sun brings his resurrection to mind.

Jesus' resurrection is not about a ghost. Jesus has been the wellspring of the church's witness for twenty centuries, and he is most real when the gospel is preached and the sacraments administered.

"This is for real!" we say when joining his meal. We remember the child who grew up and died so all might live. In worship we sing praise to the world's true Savior, and our witness to the risen Christ proclaims repentance and real forgiveness for all. If someone gives us a quizzical look as we share that good news, we say unashamedly, "Friend, peace be with you. This news is for real, just like the risen Christ!"

**GUEST MUSICIAN:
MEGAN AMOS**
French Horn



Megan Amos is currently the principal horn player for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. She previously was the principal horn player of the Toledo Symphony since 2019.

In 2019, Megan was the grand prize winner of the Susan Slaughter Solo Brass Competition at the 2019 International Women's Brass Conference. In addition to the Toledo Symphony, Megan has appeared as a soloist with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Perrysburg Symphony, and the Aspen Music Festival. In 2017, Megan did a solo tour in Moscow and St Petersburg, Russia as part of the Educational Bridge Project. Megan frequently performs with orchestras in the area including the Fort Wayne Philharmonic where she was the principal horn player from 2018-2019, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Originally from York, Maine, Megan studied at the New England Conservatory from 2013-2017. Megan's mentors include Jamie Sommerville and Adam Unsworth. Megan performs on the third horn made by the legendary Ukrainian-American horn maker, Jerry Lechniuk.

Megan and her husband recently made the move from Toledo to Columbus for her appointment with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. We are very blessed that she continues to share her musical talents with First St. John Lutheran.