



PSALM 119:45 (NIV)

I WILL WALK ABOUT  
IN

*Freedom,*

FOR I HAVE SOUGHT OUT  
YOUR PRECEPTS.

**May 26, 2024**

**The Holy Trinity**

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! YOUR 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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## ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

**Prelude** Dr. Anthony Pattin

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

**Opening Hymn** “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty” No.413

### **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.

*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: Let us pray. Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **Announcements**

**Special Music** “Eagle’s Wings” Hayden Walldorf

### **Introduction**

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul’s words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8**

*This reading narrates Isaiah’s vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing “Holy, holy, holy,” a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God’s glory. That glory is God’s mercy toward sinners.*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 29 - Congregation responds in BOLD.**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you gods,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>*Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>*The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.*

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>*the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.*

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>*The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.*

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup>*The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.*

<sup>11</sup>O Lord, give strength to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17**

*In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.*

<sup>12</sup>Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of c - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Gospel Announcement**

P: The Gospel according to St. John Chapter 3.

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

## GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

*Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.*

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

## Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

## SERMON

Pastor Rayl

**Sermon Hymn** "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

No.414

*(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 Patton

### Offering Prayer

P: Our generous heavenly Father, all good gifts come from you and from these riches we bring this offering. Help us to use it for the furtherance of your purpose in this place, and for the benefit of those in need, through our resurrected and living Lord, Jesus Christ.

**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. 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: 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.**

**Closing Hymn**

*"Jesus Shall Reign"*

No. 434

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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

**ELDERS**

Tom Gaskins, Terry Ruedy

**READER**

Bob Haar

**SOUND BOARD**

Dave Wilbarger

**GRADUATE RECOGNITION**  
**SUNDAY**  
**June 16, 2024**



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our worship service on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized. If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail it to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF GRADUATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GRADUATED FROM

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_

May 26, 2024

THE HOLY TRINITY

**Thrust into the Light**

Jesus is visited by Nicodemus at night. Though this might seem like a minor detail to skip over, the gospel writer wants us to notice it. Darkness is a symbol for misunderstanding, not only on Nicodemus' part, but on the part of those he represents: all of us. Nicodemus knows that Jesus has come from God, but doesn't realize that he is God. Even Jesus' explanations confuse Nicodemus. Here we encounter God as Father, Son, and Spirit, yet they are one God.

Like Nicodemus, we may always feel a bit "in the dark" when it comes to comprehending the mystery of the Trinity--one God in three persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We don't have to try to understand it all; what we need to know is that we need to be saved and God in all three persons saves us. Jesus uses the metaphor of birth to help Nicodemus understand how dramatically God works in our lives (the word "born" appears in this lesson eight times!). Like a slap on the bottom that old-time doctors used to stir the newborn to utter its first cries, God works lovingly and powerfully to wake us from our womb-like slumber.

A baby is calm in the darkness and comfort of its mother's womb, but at birth is overwhelmed by the brightness and excitement. We, too, are stunned when we encounter the great power and mystery of God. Sometimes it's just easier to remain in the dark than to risk encountering our own shortcomings, our own sinfulness. We would be doomed to remain spiritual infants were it not for the great sacrifice of Jesus. He gave his life for us.

Baptism thrust you into the light of Jesus and named you forever as child of God, member of God's kingdom through water and Spirit.