

JUNE 23, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Good Soil

The chapter of St. Mark contains some parables about sowing and seeds. In fact, every Sunday recently, we have sung the hymn “Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil” during the sharing of the peace. Let’s pause to think a little more about those words.

How is God making you into good soil? What things in your life are hindering your growth in Christ? Are you carrying a grudge? Is some unforgiven issue lingering between you and a friend or family member? Do you have a heavy burden or simply a weary heart? Do you have difficulty sleeping at night not because of a physical problem but because of spiritual unrest?

How is God tending the garden of your heart? If you happen to work with the soil this summer season, ponder how God does this work on a large scale with us. How is God weeding and pruning you? Turning away from your old behavior takes resources that you don't possess on your own: let God pull away those things which sap your life and choke your roots. How is God watering and feeding you? The waters of holy baptism and the foretaste of the heavenly feast at holy communion are abundantly provided for your growth.

God is our gardener this summer, encouraging our growth in every way. Sometimes we need pruning to flourish; other times it's simply sunshine and rest like every other living thing. Feel how God is making you into good soil.

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

GIVE THANKS
to the **LORD,**
FOR HE IS **GOOD;**
HIS
LOVE endures
forever.

PSALM 107 1

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

June 23, 2024 - 9:00 am

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Fifth 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! 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.

SERMON NOTES:



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bob Haar, Sherrie Haar

READER

Bob Haar

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

PLEASE RETURN BAPTISM INSERT IN BINS AT THE EXITS

ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringing of the Bell (Please Stand)

Opening Hymn "We Praise You, O God" No.870

Rite of Baptism

(Follow the liturgy as printed in the insert making the responses for the congregation. Please return the insert after the service.)

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. O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and

when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

FIRST READING: Job 38:1-11

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty.

- ¹The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:
- ²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
- ³Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.
- ⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
- ⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
- ⁶On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
- ⁷when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?
- ⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?—
- ⁹when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,
- ¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,
- ¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped?’”

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 - Congregation responds in BOLD.

- ¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ²**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble**
- ³and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

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

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

No. 773

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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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 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,

**Some went down to the sea in ships,
doing business on the mighty waters;**

²⁴ they saw the deeds of the LORD,
his wondrous works in the deep.

²⁵ **For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.**

⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸ **For the LORD shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.**

²⁶ They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their calamity;

²⁷ **they reeled and staggered like drunkards,
and were at their wits' end.**

²⁸ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he brought them out from their distress;

²⁹ **he made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.**

³⁰ Then they were glad because they had quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.

³¹ **Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.**

³² Let them extol him in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation.

¹As we work together with him, (Jesus) we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet

are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

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 e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark chapter 4.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:35-41

Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence.

³⁵When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey 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

“When Peace Like A River”

No.785

(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

“No Need to Fear”

By Wintley Phipps

Dana Baker,
Special Guest

(Please stand)

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,