

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. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician
Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir, Director
Jennifer Hess, Office Manager



July 28, 2024

Tenth 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.

Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

July 28, 2024 - 9:00 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringing of the Bell
(Please Stand)

Opening Hymn "Praise the Lord! O Heavens" No.823

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. Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Special Music "City Called Heaven" Traditional Spiritual
Bradley Baker, Baritone

Introduction

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd.

Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

⁴² A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” ⁴³ But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’” ⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-21- Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,**

¹² to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.
The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.**

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ **The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶ You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ **The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.**

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ **He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.**

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,

but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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. John chapter 6.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 6:1-21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

¹ Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹ “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰ Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified.

²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Jerald Rayl

Sermon Hymn

“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

No.480

(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: Hear us O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offertory Music

“He Touched Me”

Gaither
Bradley Baker, Baritone

(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 your name and join their unending hymn:

The image shows a musical score for the unending hymn 'Ho-san-na'. It consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '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 "Lord, Keep us Steadfast in Your Word" No. 517

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bob Haar, Sherrie Haar

READER

Bob Haar

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +

**Please Welcome Special Guest,
Bradley Baker, Baritone**



Mr. Baker is a native of Toledo who studied music in Los Angeles, attending The University of Southern California.

Mr. Baker has done concerts and guest artist performances in more than 35 countries, two world premier operas, ISRAEL and William Grant Still's opera, COSTASO, and the 2018 world premiere of the opera, I DREAM in Toledo, Ohio. Mr. Baker enjoyed doing PARADE with 3-D Theatricals, Old Deuteronomy in CATS, Simon of Cyrene in THE GLORY OF EASTER, and The Shepherd in THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS at the world famous Crystal Cathedral.

He also performed as Sir Lionel in CAMELOT, Jim in BIG RIVER, King Melchior in AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS, and in DREAM GIRLS, RAGTIME, PHANTOM, and GREASEPAINT. Mr. Baker has had the honor of playing God in the world premiere of CREATION.

Mr. Baker also has done solo performances with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Honolulu, San Diego, South East, Temecula and international orchestras and symphonies. He has recorded solos with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and has three solo CDs.

First St. John Lutheran Church welcomes you!

July 28, 2024

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

I AM

Sometimes the love of Jesus comes to us as a gift of an abundant meal. Other times this love rises above a stormy sea, calling to us with an ancient name: I am.

The disciples have just had an amazing day. Jesus has fed thousands of hungry people with mere scraps; and not just fed them a few crumbs but an all-you-can-eat feast with more leftovers than Thanksgiving dinner at Grandma's house. After this incredible day, the disciples leave Jesus to retreat. They're rowing to Capernaum when a strong wind comes up, and three or four miles out to sea they see Jesus walking toward them on the rough waters. They're understandably terrified!

When he approaches, Jesus speaks, but not just as a man identifying himself--he utters the name of God: I am. Our Bible translation reads a little differently: "It is I; do not be afraid" (John 6:20), but when the disciples heard Jesus speak to them, his words would have reminded them of the other times God had used these words. God uses the name "I am" many places in the Bible. We first hear it when Moses asks how to address God; God answers, "I am who I am" (Ex. 3:14).

We can feel for those disciples. They think they've had a great day of ministry together, think they've got a sweet deal, working for this Jesus, assisting at the miraculous feeding of the 5,000. But then they're fearful and stunned by the rough water, and even more, by Jesus walking on it and speaking as the voice of God. This kind of roller coaster of faith often happens to us, too. At those times of our lives when we experience both mountaintop joys and rough waters, it is good to know that God is. "I am," Jesus says, "Do not be afraid."