

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

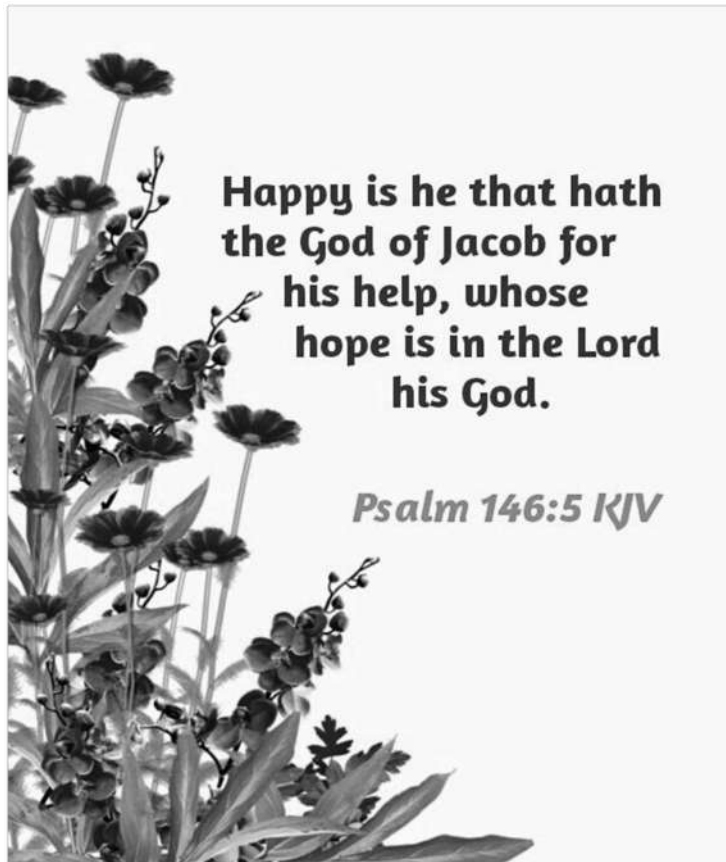
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

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



**September 8, 2024**

**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism (starting soon). 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!

**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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*Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community*

**September 8, 2024 - 10:30 am**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am**

**Prelude** Dr. Anthony Pattin

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

**Opening Hymn** “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word” No.520

**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, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

**Announcements**

**Introduction**

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today’s gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don’t deserve the goods meant for God’s children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God’s vengeance on Edom, Israel’s age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles’ return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 146** Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,  
in mortals, in whom there is no help.  
<sup>4</sup> **When their breath departs, they return to the earth;  
on that very day their plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
<sup>8</sup> **the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
<sup>10</sup> **The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
Praise the LORD!**

## **SECOND READING: James 2:1-10, 14-17**

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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 7.

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

## **GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

### **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** "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" No.620

*(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.

*(Please be seated)*

### **The Offering**

### **Offertory Music**

*Dr. Anthony Pattin*

*(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.**

### **Pastoral Prayer** *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: Hear us O God.

**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: 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**

*“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”*

No. 539

**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**

Bob Haar, Sherrie Haar

**READER**

Bob Haar

**SOUND BOARD**

Dave Wilbarger

# 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



## Language of Healing

"Sticks and stones can break my bones," but names can and do hurt, deeply. "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to dogs," Jesus flings (as a test?) at the foreigner pleading for her little girl. Refusing to take a slur for an answer, she tosses the inhuman words right back at him: "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Names hurt, but love stronger than hurt provokes language to open the mind and change reality. "For *saying* that, you may go--the demon has left your daughter." Words have power to liberate and to heal.

But in a world without sound, actions speak. Friends of a deaf man with a speech impediment bring him to Jesus, looking for a cure. Jesus takes the man aside in private, communicating concern for his dignity: healing will not be a show. Jesus spits, touches him, looks up to heaven, and sighs. Body language, the quality of touch, and facial expression are all part of the message. "Be opened," he says--and the man's ears are opened, his tongue set free.

Words have power; actions speak; some elusive combination of both brings sound health. We can point to things that make a difference, but never isolate a single cause. Healing is not magic--using the right formula--but mystery. It depends upon the gathered community: the crowd is where to find Jesus. When we can't ask for ourselves, others (the girl's mother, the man's friends) intercede. Healing also depends on personal interchanges apart from the crowd.

Words have power--up to a point--and humor. Perhaps so the man will not be treated as a curiosity, Jesus orders them to tell no one. But his deed has evidently loosed more than one tongue; the more he orders, the more they ignore him! Healing anticipates resurrection. The last words of Mark's gospel--"they said nothing to anybody"--*won't* be. Somebody will talk!