

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



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community
November 10, 2024 - 10:30 am

November 10, 2024

Women's Awareness Sunday

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 Sunday School
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. 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 JAM Sunday School (church basement) and Adult Sunday School (lounge) meet each Sunday at 9:15 am. First year catechism will start soon! If you have a child in 6-7th grade interested please let Pastor Rayl know.

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. We are currently looking to re-start a nursery in the next month or so with workers to accommodate those who have small children. Stay tuned!

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. A chair lift is available to those who need assistance with the stairs.

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 Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringling of the Bell
(Please Stand)

Opening Hymn “Come, We That Love the Lord” No.625

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. O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

Widows are visible everywhere in today’s readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows’ houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn’t see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 17:8-16

This chapter begins the story of Elijah. God sends a drought on Israel because of the sins of King Ahab. This passage depicts God’s saving acts not only on behalf of Elijah, but also on behalf of those who are associated with the prophet, even a foreigner, the widow of Zarephath.

⁸ The word of the Lord came to [Elijah,] saying, ⁹ “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰ So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹ As she

was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”¹² But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”¹³ Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.”¹⁴ For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied, and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.”¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days.¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146 (congregation responds in BOLD)

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴ **When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶ **who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ **the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ **The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28

The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.

²⁴ Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own;²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself.²⁷ And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment,²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for 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 e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 12.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 12:38-44

After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.

³⁸ As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces,³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets!⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.⁴² A poor

widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn “*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*” No. 712

(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

I’d Rather Have Jesus Martin
FSJ Chancel Choir
Craig Whitaker, Guest Director

(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.

A Litany of Thanksgiving for our WELCA

P: O Creative God, you made us in your image.

C: You call us into discipleship in Jesus Christ.

P: You empower us through the Holy Spirit.

C: let your lovingkindness be upon us as you accept our prayers.

P: O God of our ancestors, we remember the bold witness of our foremothers who paved the way for all women, lay and ordained.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: O Holy One, who breathes life into us all, we raise before you the bold women among us today.

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: For those who pray, for those who parent, for those who study, for those who advocate,

C: We give you thanks, O God

P: For those who laugh, for those who share, for those who extend hospitality, for those who smile,

C: We give you thanks, O God.

P: O Gracious One, forgive us when we are too timid to live up to the boldness you have placed within us.

C: We pray to you, O God.

P: O Gracious One, enable us to recognize, honor and support the boldness you have placed within others.

C: We pray to you, O God.

P: O God of infinite possibility, grant to us all the opportunity to act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: O God of abundant life, grant to us all emotional, physical and spiritual wholeness so that we might best serve others in your name.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: O God of strength, give us courage, hope and open hearts, that we might experience expanding possibilities and grow through change.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Nurturing God, you have inspired and empowered women throughout all ages.

C: give us the courage and wisdom to act boldly on our faith in you, O Creating, redeeming and Sustaining One. 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: 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 "Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand" No. 441

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

+++++

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Mike Winslow

READER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

2024 POINSETTIA SALE
SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



Fill in the form below to place your order for poinsettias to be used during worship at Christmas time. You can place this form with payment in the offering plate or mail it in to the church office. Payment must accompany orders. Checks payable to: **First St. John**

Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 15th.

Number of plants @ \$15.00 each _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

Color (circle one) Red White

Name _____

Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) _____

In Honor of (Living) _____

November 10, 2024

WOMEN'S AWARENESS SUNDAY

To Live On

"How much do we have to live on?" It is a question asked around dining room tables as couples or individuals look at their finances: income and expenses. How can we make ends meet?

The main character in today's gospel is a widow. The traditional interpretation of this reading is to praise the widow for her example of generosity. While some rich people put large sums into the temple treasury, the widow puts in a few coins. Jesus indicates that out of her poverty she puts in everything she has, all she has to live on.

Yet Jesus' comments may also be a lament about her plight. Widows at the time were victims of economic injustice. Maybe she was an example of how innocent people were victimized by temple authorities. Jesus may be denouncing the scribes, for rather than caring for the widow as the law directed, they were robbing her of all she had to live on.

Each Sunday we receive the extravagance of God's grace as Christ is present in word and meal. In response to this wonderful gift, we welcome the opportunity to give of our time, our money, and our abilities. We also stand with all victims of oppression as we work for a more just world.

During this time of year when, for many in North America, the hours of daylight are dwindling, we are reminded that temporal things run out--time, money, and life itself. The generosity of God gives us the courage to take risks, to let go, and to commit ourselves to something greater than ourselves. By sharing of our resources, we are not only concerned about what we are going to live on, but we are concerned about what is going to live on into the future. We seek to pass on the treasure of the gospel, and to share of the abundance that we have received.