

First St. John Lutheran Church

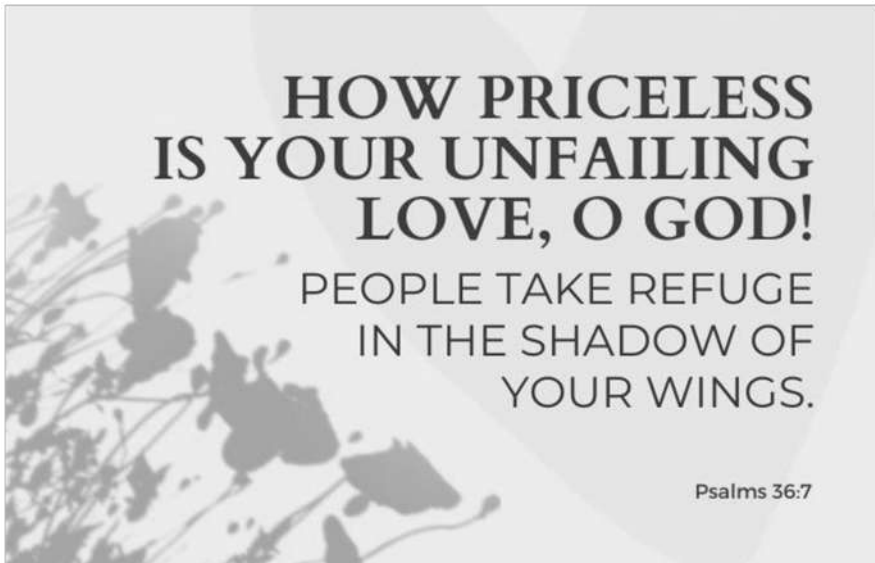
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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

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



January 19, 2025

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

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 now available during 2nd Service each week; you are welcome to sit with your child as well. 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
January 19, 2025 - 10:30 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP - 10:30 am

Prelude Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringling of the Bell
(Please Stand)

Opening Hymn "Morning has Broken" No.556

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

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: Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism--today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.

¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 36:5-10 — Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

⁵ Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
⁶ **Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.**
⁷ How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
⁸ **They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**
⁹ For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.
¹⁰ **O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God’s Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.
⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are

varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. John chapter 2.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 2:1-11

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus’ signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God’s creative power and joyful presence into the world.

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They

have no wine.”⁴ And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.”⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.⁷ Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.⁸ He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it.⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom¹⁰ and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in 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 “Soul, Adorn Yourself in Gladness” No. 488

(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.

Litany for Blessing Our Families

P: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

C: My soul longs for the courts of the Lord, my heart sings for joy to the living God.

P: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest where she may keep her young.

C: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

P: No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

C: O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

P: Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and friends,

C: aunts, uncles, sons, and daughters,

P: People who reach out to nurture and love,

C: people who live by water and word –

P: God adopts us and names us and claims us.

C: God renews us, uplifts and restores us.

P: Generations from Abraham to David to Joseph,

C: to Jesus, son of Mary, Son of God;

P: Our generations too, and all those to come:

C: We are joined in the family of God.

P: O God for whom we long, we thank you for the gift of family and friends. Strengthen the ties that bind us together, that we may sing the song of Mary:

C: “My soul magnifies you, and holy is your name. You shower mercy from generation to generation.”

P: We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, your gift to all the world.

C: Amen.

(The elders will direct families by pew to come forward to the altar to receive a blessing. After everyone has returned to their seats, the service continues as the congregation stands.)

P: Let us pray. Triune God, whose will it is that humans live in community, bless family life everywhere and fill all homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Strengthen the commitment of husbands and wives to one another, that they may mirror your covenant faithfulness; pour out your Spirit on parents, that through them children may experience your unconditional love; and empower all family members to live in your grace and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, (✠) bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn “*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*” No. 517

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

+ + + + +

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bill Nelson, Matt Miller

READER

Bob Kinsey

SOUND BOARD

Amy Nelson



**MONTHLY MINISTRY
FOCUS:
ISAIAH 117 HOUSE**

“Changing how Foster Care Begins”

This month’s monthly ministry focus will again be the Isaiah 117 House in Lucas County. The Isaiah 117 project exists to reduce trauma on removal day for children who are being placed in the foster care system. The house helps lighten the load for caseworkers and ease transition into foster care by creating a ‘home’ environment where children on removal day can go instead of an office while caseworkers work on placement. This home provides the comforts of home and lessens the impact.

Even better, an Isaiah 117 home is planned for Oregon / East Toledo! Genacross Lutheran Services has donated a half-acre of land in Oregon, Ohio, and the surveying of the land is being donated. The general contractor, Jim Moline with Moline Builders is actively reaching out to suppliers and subcontractors. But, we need your help! FSJ is joining other Lutheran churches in the area on taking up a collection to help fund the home’s creation. Please consider donating by placing your offering in the yellow envelopes in your pew during offering.

January 19, 2025

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Simple Signs, Great Gifts

Perhaps it shouldn't be surprising that Jesus' first sign took place at an otherwise ordinary wedding. After all, Jesus was the stable-born son of an unremarkable carpenter and his wife. The poor, downtrodden, and oppressed were often the beneficiaries of Jesus' mercy and figured prominently in his teachings. In fact, the entire New Testament could be considered a caution against thinking that there is any place or any person too lowly to be lifted up by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This was the beginning of Jesus' ministry, and it may seem a modest one, but it reveals a profound truth. The water in the stone pots was set aside for ritual purification, according to Jewish law. Jesus replaced this water with wine. In the same way, he would replace the old relationship, the old rituals, with a new covenant--a wedding, if you will--with God. He did this through the blood shed in his victorious sacrifice for us. The simple sign enacted at this wedding points to an event that restored joy and life.

This same symbolism is repeated weekly in our churches. When we celebrate the Lord's supper, we recall God's covenant with us and the sacrifice Jesus made for the forgiveness of our sin. Like the wedding guests in Cana, there may be nothing special about us. We may be--in fact, before God we all are--lowly and undeserving. But God offers us a gift beyond measure.

Without the wine, the wedding feast at Cana would not have been as joyous. Jesus "saved" the party. And Christ's sacrifice, brought to us in the sacrament of Holy Communion, saves us all.