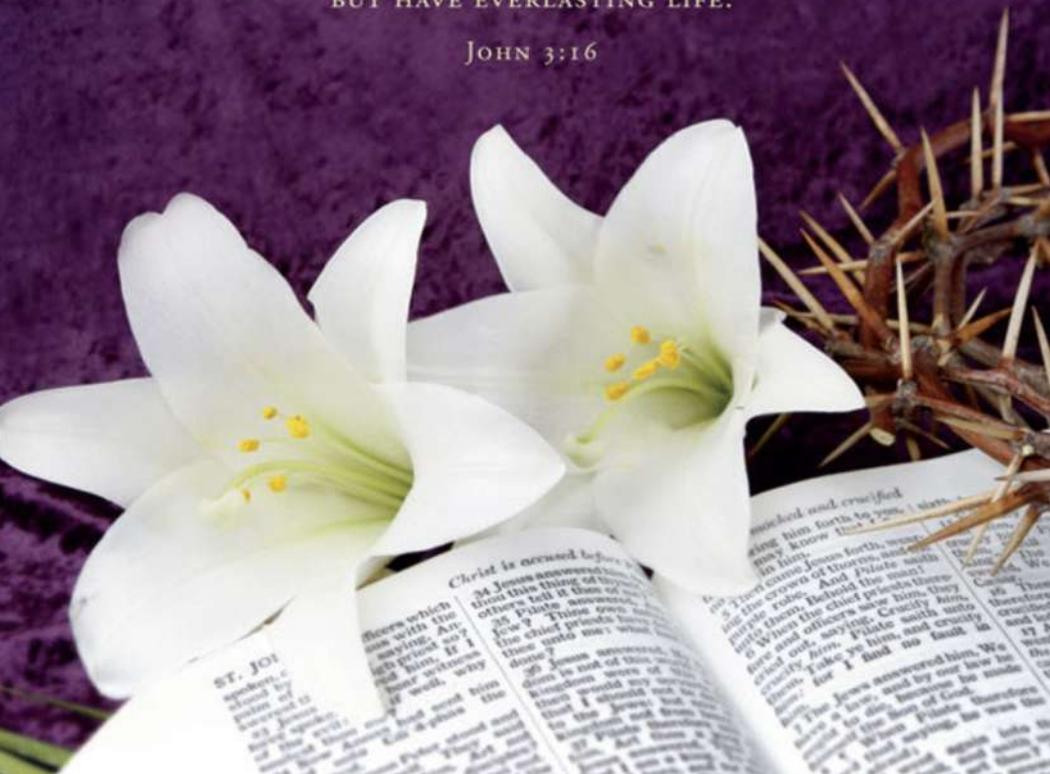


A Glorious Easter

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,
THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH,
BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

JOHN 3:16



First St. John Lutheran Church

2471 Seaman Street

Toledo, Ohio 43605

419-691-7222

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician

Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir Director

EASTER ORDER OF WORSHIP – April 20, 2025
10:30 am

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell *(Please stand)*

(The service begins with the removal of the shroud covering the Altar Cross)

P: Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: “And (God) will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces.” *(Isaiah 25:7)*

C: He gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

P: Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Opening Hymn

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

No. 365

LIGHTING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

P: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: This is the day when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell and rose victorious from the grave.

C: How blessed is this day when earth and heaven are joined and humanity is reconciled with God.

Rite of Holy Baptism

(Please use insert in the bulletin and make responses as indicated)

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:

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

Praise him a -bove, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death,” Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter’s sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (Congregation responds in BOLD.)

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.

Let Israel now declare,

“God’s mercy endures forever.”

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!

The right hand of the Lord is exalted!

The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”

I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

“This is the gate of the Lord;

here the righteous may enter.”

**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**By the Lord has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation (please stand) - (sung by the Congregation)

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.

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 24.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 24:1-12

Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

¹ On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how

he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You of Christ.**

MESSAGE

Rev. Jerald Rayl

(Please stand)

Message Song "Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!" (vs. 1-3 only) No. 380

Pastoral Prayer (Each petition concludes with this response)

P: Hear us, O Lord,

C: **your mercy is great.**

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Musical Offertory "At Calvary" arr. Kirkland FSJ Chancel Choir
Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, guest director
Dr. Anthony Pattin, piano

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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. 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:

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.

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.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

To you, O God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Special Music

"The Lord's Prayer"

Malotte

Jo-Anne Chrysochoos

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: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

(Please be seated)

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: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and sustain you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, (+) the Christ of unending joy,
 and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Closing Song "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" No. 367

Dismissal

P: Christ is risen.

C: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

"Hallelujah"

Handel

Dr. Anthony Pattin, piano

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Dick Haar

John Roth

READER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

Thank you for visiting First St. John Lutheran Church!

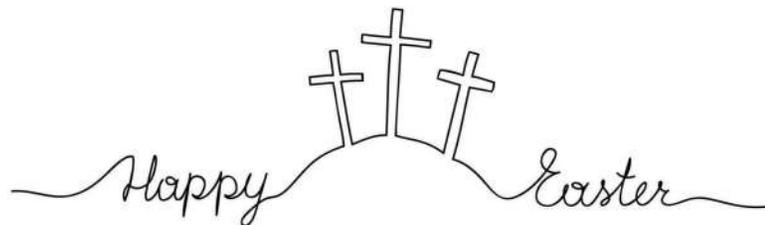
We offer two services at 8 am and 10:30 am each Sunday and Sunday School for youth and adults at 9:15 am through the end of May. We switch to one service for the Summer beginning on Sunday, May 25th at 9 am. Make plans to join us each week!

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

NURSERY is in the church basement and is now available during 2nd Service each week normally, but for Easter Sunday so all can enjoy service with their families it is not available, however, you are welcome to use the space 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is planned for this Summer! Our theme this year is 'True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World'. Make plans for your child age Pre-K - 5th grade to join us on July 14th-17th from 5-8:30pm. More info to come, but keep an eye on our website: firststjohn.com for registration information.



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.



April 20, 2025

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

When Hope Speaks Our Name

Haven't we all been like Mary Magdalene at one time or another? Haven't we all returned to the scene of something that brings us great sadness? Maybe, like Mary, it is the grave of a loved one. Previously well-loved and often-frequented locales may be sources of pain following a divorce or breakup. Perhaps it is an empty house that reminds us that life will never be quite the same again.

The losses we have faced deposit us right alongside the weeping Mary. Just when we feel as if even our memories are being taken away from us, someone comes to stand beside us. Someone comes and speaks our name in the most loving way possible. That someone is Jesus. In his loving and living presence, our hope is restored.

Even in the intense joy of it all, Jesus' resurrection did not erase the reality of the crucifixion. The marks of the nails on Jesus' body were real, but Christ's resurrection heralded a new reality. Death was not the end. So Mary Magdalene went to tell the news!

Like Mary Magdalene, we who have experienced the Lord's presence in our own lives are sent to be apostles to others. Jesus still lives in the lives of all who, day by day and week after week, call upon him in prayer. With this kind of faith, there is no place or situation we need finally fear, because we know that God is able to redeem it. As an Easter people we believe that in the end God's love will conquer all. That is the greatest news of Easter. Jesus lives and we will too!