

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

April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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
April 6, 2025 - 10:30 am

ORDER OF WORSHIP - 10:30 am

Prelude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

Ringing of the Bell

(Please Stand)

Opening Hymn "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" No. 886

Rite of Baptism

(Follow the liturgy as printed in the insert making the responses for the congregation. Please return the insert after the service.)

Sharing 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.

Sharing of the Peace concludes by singing the Doxology

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.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn of Praise (sung in unison)

Assisting minister S 139
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
All
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us prayer. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Introduction

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

- ¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;

- they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 126— Congregation responds in **BOLD**.

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
 we were like those who dream.

² **Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy;
 then it was said among the nations,
 "The LORD has done great things for them."**

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
 and we rejoiced.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
 like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

⁵ May those who sow in tears
 reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping,
 bearing the seed for sowing,
 shall come home with shouts of joy,
 carrying their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:]^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Lenten Verse (sung in unison)

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 12.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Jerald Rayl

Sermon Hymn

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

No. 596

(Please stand as you are able)

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offertory Music *"I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked"* O'Hara
Bill Hamilton, baritone

(Please stand as you are able)

Offering Response – (Sung by the congregation)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we
have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the
one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

P: God in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the
reconciling Spirit, (†) bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn *"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"* No. 802

Dismissal

P: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the
Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Dr. Anthony Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bob Haar

Sherrie Haar

READER

Bob Haar

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

2025 EASTER FLOWER SALE

SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



It's time to order the flowers that will decorate the church on Easter morning, April 20th. The price is \$15.00 per plant. You can choose a lily, daffodil, hyacinth, or tulip. Fill out the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. The final Sunday to order will be **April 6th**. Payment must accompany your order. Make checks out to: **First St. John Lutheran.**

Deadline for placing orders is Friday, April 6th.

Number of plants @ \$15.00 each _____

Enclosed: \$ _____

Type of plant: _____

(lily, daffodil, hyacinth, tulip)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) _____

In Honor of (Living) _____

April 6, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Signs of Love

Here near the end of Lent, the story of Mary anointing Jesus' feet points us toward the holy days to come. On Maundy Thursday we will hear about, and perhaps reenact, Jesus washing the feet of his followers. How do these two foot-washings from John's gospel relate to each other, and what do they mean for our lives as Christians?

When Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he provided an image of how his followers ought to love one another. In today's gospel, Mary models a posture of Christian service through her anointing of Jesus' feet. In performing this loving action Mary becomes an early sign of what genuine discipleship means. In other words, she "gets it" before the others.

The greatest sign of love that we will encounter again in the coming weeks is Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of the world. In that act Christ poured himself out for all believers. Both foot-washings point to lives poured out in loving sacrifice to others. Mary's insight into what Jesus' death means, here before the passion narrative begins, helps us see what his death would come to mean for our daily living.

Through prayer, through the reading of the scriptures, and through our participation in the sacraments of baptism and communion, we too have Jesus in our midst. How do we honor his presence in our lives with our words and our actions? What signs of sacrificial love do we show others, so that they might know the welcome of a community formed by the love of Christ?