

**First St. John Lutheran Church**

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[www.firststjohn.com](http://www.firststjohn.com)

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

Dr. Anthony Pattin, Church Musician  
Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, Director of Music  
Cheri Sergent, Bell Choir, Director  
Jennifer Hess, Office Manager



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

**August 10, 2025 - 9:00 am**

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**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! Through the Summer months we offer one service. Holy Communion will be celebrated every Sunday throughout the Summer.

9:00 am    Worship

**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!

**NURSERY** is not monitored during the summer months but you are welcome to sit with your child downstairs as needed. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church. A

**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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## ORDER OF WORSHIP—9:00 am

Prelude “Meditation-Massenet” Merwin Siu, violin  
Dr. Anthony Pattin, piano

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn “Awake, my Soul, and with the Sun” No. 557

### Invocation

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

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.**

P: You are the treasured people of the LORD,

**C: a people holy to the LORD our God.**

P: Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

P: One does not live by bread alone,

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### Hymn

“We are Baptized in Christ Jesus” v. 1-2  
(printed below)

No. 451

**We are baptized in Christ Jesus, we are baptized in his death; that as Christ is raised victorious, we might live a brand new life. And if we have been united in a dreadful death like his, we will all be reunited, for he lives.**

**In the water and the witness, in the breaking of the bread, in the waiting arms of Jesus who is risen from the dead, God has made a new beginning from the ashes of our past; in the losing and the winning we hold fast.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**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:*

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit, ever three and ever one; as it was in the beginning, glory now resounds again in a song that has no ending. Amen**

### The Greeting and Prayer

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

**C: And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### Announcements

### Special Music

“For the Beauty of the Earth” Kai Siu, vocalist

### Introduction

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

### FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22 Congregation responds in BOLD.

<sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

<sup>13</sup> **The Lord looks down from heaven;  
he sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup> From where he sits enthroned he watches  
all the inhabitants of the earth—

<sup>15</sup> **he who fashions the hearts of them all  
and observes all their deeds.**

<sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by his great army;  
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

<sup>17</sup> **The war horse is a vain hope for victory,  
and by its great might it cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup> Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup> **to deliver their soul from death  
and to keep them alive in famine.**

<sup>20</sup> Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and shield.

<sup>21</sup> **Our heart is glad in him  
because we trust in his holy name.**

<sup>22</sup> Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

### Gospel Acclamation *(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.

## **Gospel Announcement**

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 12.

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

## **GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40**

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup>“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

## **Gospel Response**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

## **SERMON**

Pastor Rayl

## **Sermon Hymn**

*“What Feast of Love”*

No. 487

*(Please stand)*

## **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

## **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**

*“You Raise Me Up”*

Graham/Lovland

## **Offering Prayer**

P: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as your were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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. 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: Lord 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: The risen Christ invites us to this table.

**C: Come, eat and be satisfied.**

*(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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing**

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" No. 618

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

Dr. Anthony Pattin

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**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

**ELDERS**

Tom Gaskins  
Terry Ruedy

**READER**

Toni Wilbarger

**SOUND BOARD**

Beth Huguely

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**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 |                        |                   |

*\*denotes high need item*

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.

**AUGUST 10, 2025**

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Faith-Based Initiative**

Scripture tells us that upon hearing the news that he and Sarah would have a child, "Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, 'Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?' " (Gen. 17:17). That Abraham and Sarah *tried*, in spite of everything, is surely what the people of God have always understood as the meaning of "faith-based initiative."

God promised. Abraham and Sarah trusted that promise and acted upon it. Isaac and all the children of Israel were the result.

The gospel today reminds us that "it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). The promise is the inheritance of the kingdom. We, God's people, are invited to trust that promise. Trusting, we are invited to participate in the holy reign of God that God has initiated in the death of Jesus. We are invited in Holy Baptism to participate in a time and place where Jesus is acknowledged as Lord. We are invited to participate in an arena where the rule of God is celebrated; where the law of God is venerated; where the suffering of God in Christ Jesus is emulated. We are invited, in other words, to be the church.

"Be dressed for action," Jesus said. "Have your lamps lit." We have been invited by the Spirit of God to proclaim the Lord's death until he comes in our regular sharing of Holy Communion. We have been invited to offer ourselves, our time, and our possessions in the proclamation of God's word and the praise of God's name in weekly worship and faithful witness and service. While we wait for and trust in Jesus' promised return we have the opportunity to exercise a little faith-based initiative ourselves.