First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl, Pastor

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



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

November 8, 2026 - 10:30 am

November 8, 2026 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Adult Sunday School
10:30 am	JAM 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!

Nursery: 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.

Restroms: 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—10:30 am

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"* No. 631

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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Compassionate God,
C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through (☩) Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

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:

"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: The Lord be with you.

C: And also, with you.

P: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Announcements

Children's Message

Introduction

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 70 (*congregation responds in BOLD*)

[1] Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O Lord, make haste to help me!
[2] Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.
Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.
[3] Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"
turn back because of their shame.

[4] Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.
Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"
[5] But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay!

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

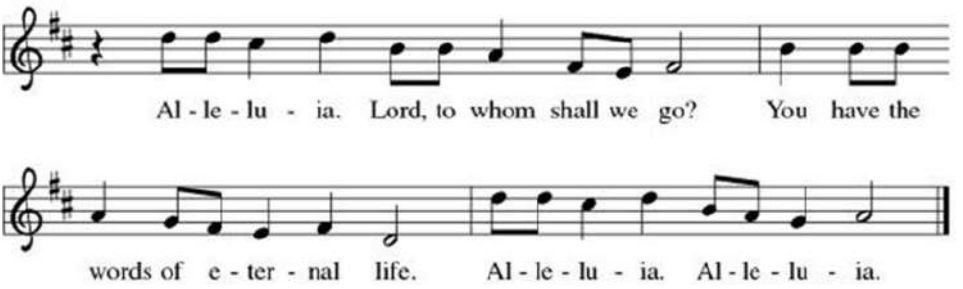
Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,
about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others
do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and
rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those
who have died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the
Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the
Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the
Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call
and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven,
and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive,
who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them
to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord
forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse (sung in unison)



Gospel Acclamation
P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 25.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming,
emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] “Then the kingdom of heaven will
be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet
the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
[3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,
[4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the
bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.
[6] But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the
bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ [7] Then all those young
women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the
wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ [9] But
the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us;
you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’
[10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those
who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the
door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying,
‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ [12] But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not
know you.’ [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day
nor the hour.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Gospel Response

SERMON Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn *“Borning Cry”* No. 732

(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 Lord,
C: your mercy is great.

The Offering

Musical Offertory Dr. Anthony Pattin

Offertory Response – *(sung by the congregation, as the offering plates are brought forward to the Altar).*





Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

C: Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

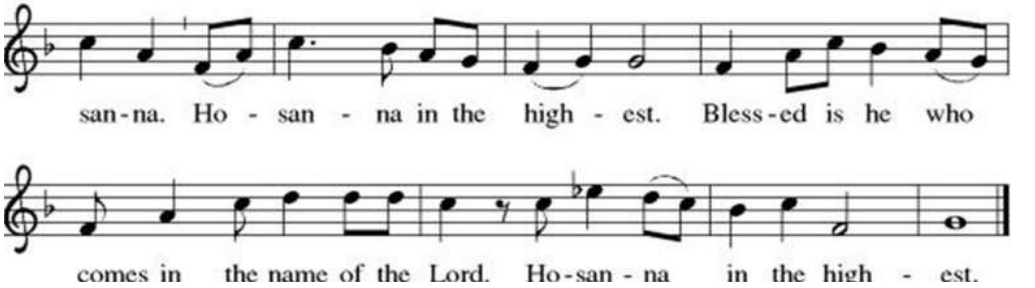
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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. 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.

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."

**** Please be certain to fill out a communion record card then put it in the offering plate or hand it to the usher when directed to go up to receive the bread and wine.*

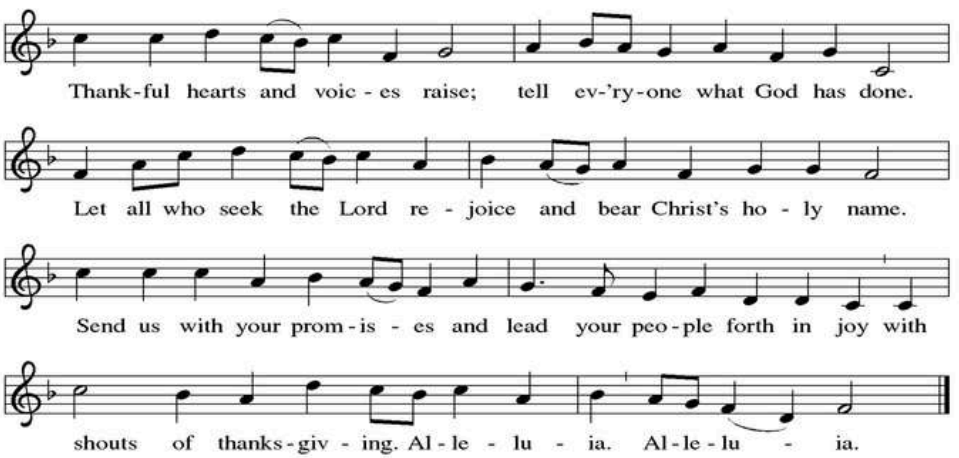
If you wish to receive apple juice instead of wine, place your hand over your shoulder as you approach the person distributing the wine.

(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.

Post Communion Response ***(sung in unison)***



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus Christ, our servant Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: Like children held in the arms of Jesus, receive the blessing: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn *"Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand"* No. 441

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve your neighbor with joy**.**

C: Thanks be to God

Postlude Dr. Anthony Pattin

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bill Nelson
Matt Miller

READER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Amy Nelson

2026 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 13th.

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

Color (circle one) Red White

Name_____

Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased)

_____

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In Honor of (Living)

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Wise Ignorance

In today's gospel reading, Jesus suggests that what we do not know could make us wise. These final weeks of the church year focus our attention on the end of time. Biological life will end for each of us one day, but our deaths will be preceded by other kinds of endings. Childhood ends. Young adulthood ends. Schooling, careers, interests--even being single or being married sometimes comes to an end. "I did not see it coming." That can be a sign of foolishness. "I did not know if or when it might come." That could be a sign of wisdom. Wisdom is not a matter of possessing a crystal ball to see the future. What is required from us is an act of imagination --the ability to envision a variety of different endings to our stories. The bridegroom could arrive early (which means we will have lots of time to party). The bridegroom could arrive late (which means we will need to have extra oil for the wait). But one thing is certain: when the bridegroom arrives, it is too late to start shopping for lamp fuel. Wake up! The time to take action is now! Being a wise disciple of Jesus is much, much more than sitting around waiting for judgment day or searching for signs of the Lord's return. A wise disciple engages powerful acts of imagination and takes action here and now, propelled by a humility that acknowledges that we do not know what the future will bring. Our strength for living does not come from our wits or our planning. Instead it comes from the certainty that one day, indeed, the bridegroom will appear and the party will begin, and we really want to be there! What shall we do now with this knowledge?