

First St. John Lutheran Church

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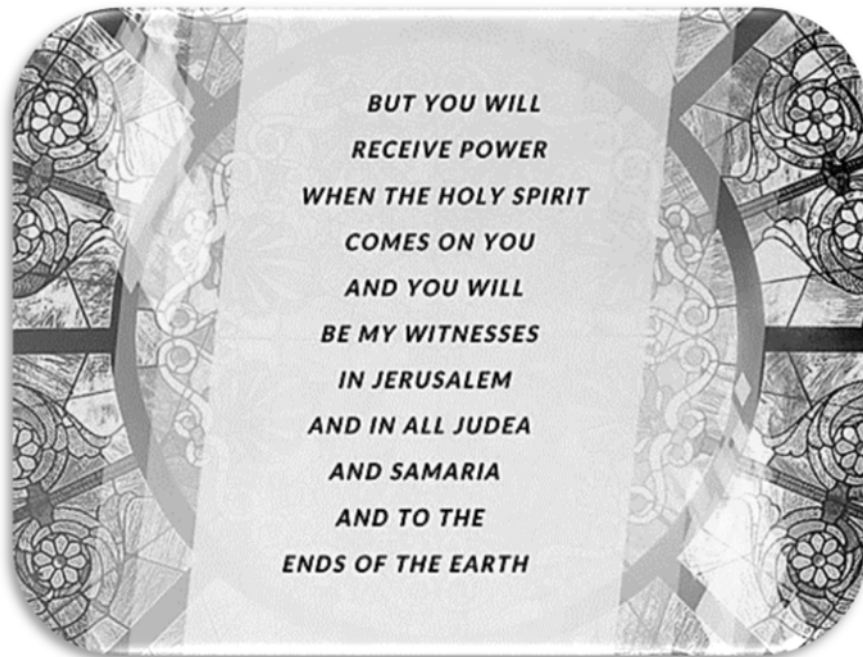
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Toni Wilbarger - Secretary



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

May 24, 2020

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Ascension of Our Lord

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! If you are visiting, please sign the guest book near the main door in the Narthex. We offer both a traditional and celebration service, a joint effort between members of both the traditional and contemporary services with special music and a message, which we alternate during the summer months.

Sunday School & Catechism are dismissed for the summer.

Nursery: Our nursery is in the church basement. The nursery is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table & a semi-private nursing area also are 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. In the 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 flowers for a Sunday, there is a sign up book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you may 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 or in the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

ELDERS

Dick Haar, Tom Eppard

READER

Carol Haar

SOUND BOARD

Dave Wilbarger

ORDER OF WORSHIP – TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Prelude
Ringing of the Bell (Please stand)

Hymn

Thanksgiving For Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the Thanksgiving begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen.
C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The water is poured into the baptismal font.

P: Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

C: **We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from the faucet, for rain and snow, for the Maumee River, Lake Erie, and all the smaller creeks and streams.

C: **We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

P: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

C: **We give you thanks, O God, for your salvation through water.**

P: We give you thanks for the life of the baptized, for all who worship in your name, for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen, but to whom we are bound.

C: **We give you thanks, O God for the life of all baptized.**

P: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters; for our new birth into a life of forgiveness of sin, redemption and service; for our calling to be your people, and for being sent out as the body of Christ for the life of the world.

C: **We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity (+) now and forever. Amen.**

Baptismal Hymn – We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

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 winning we hold fast.

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.

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.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Announcements

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises the disciples' missionary work will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 47

God has gone up with a shout. (Ps. 47:5)

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a cry of joy.

**²For the LORD Most High is to be feared;
he is the great king over all the earth.**

³He subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet.

**⁴He chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of the ram's horn.

**⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is King of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.

**⁸God reigns over the nations;
God sits upon his holy throne.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham.

**¹⁰The rulers of the earth belong to God,
and he is highly exalted.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, Paul prays they might also see the power of God, who in the ascension has now enthroned Christ as head of the church, his body.

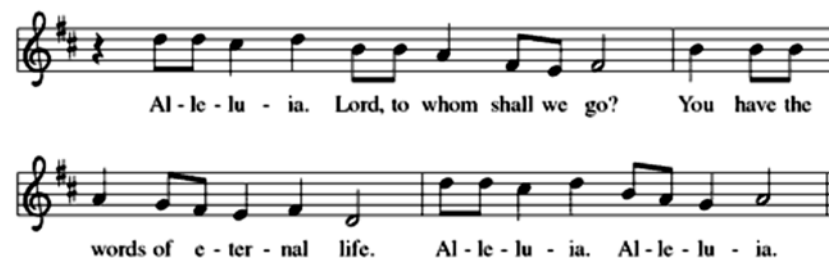
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

(Please stand)



Gospel Acclamation (spoken)

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 24.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

At the time of his ascension, Jesus leaves the disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit and an instruction that they should await the Spirit's descent.

[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Gospel Response (Spoken)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Rayl

Sermon Hymn

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.

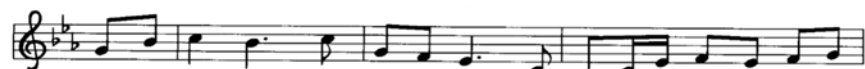
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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.

The Offering

(Please stand)

Offering Response – *(Sung by the congregation)*



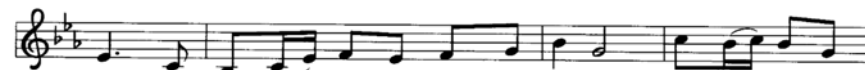
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

P: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you 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.

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

P: Lord, 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 and Dismissal

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and empower you for discipleship. Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Christ is risen, just as he promised. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Closing Hymn

Postlude

GRADUATE RECOGNITION



With the uncertainty of our church service schedule at this time, we may have to postpone our graduate recognition until a later date. But we will begin to collect our graduate's information now.

If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, please complete this form and either mail or email (office@firststjohn.com) it to the church. If you email the information, you don't need the form, unless you have scanning capability at home. Thanks!

NAME OF GRADUATE

GRADUATED FROM

DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.):

May 24, 2020

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Why the Ascension Matters

Excerpted from *Christianity Today*, 8/20/13

The ascension had a profound impact on the disciples. Up to the moment Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples seemed to be puzzled, trying to figure it all out. But after the ascension, they worshiped Him. They went back to Jerusalem with great joy. They maintained a regular presence in the temple—worshiping God.

At first, the disciples' reaction to Jesus' ascension may catch us off guard. Jesus had just "left them." And yet they were happy—filled with joy. Why this reaction? After all, when Jesus told them earlier that He would soon leave them, they were deeply disturbed.

Thus, He encouraged them by teaching them about the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He kept them from the brink of utter despair by saying that they were not losing Him, but that He would be with them in a different way through His Spirit.

The ascension of Jesus produced joy because the disciples realized what amazing benefits would come to them when Jesus returned to the Father. When Jesus ascended, all the promises regarding the Spirit's ministry to the disciples were about to be fulfilled. The disciples accepted His ascension, for they had accepted Jesus' word about the promised One to come. Their doubts and fears were gone. They were convinced of who He was. They knew that He died to forgive them of their sins. They knew He was alive from the dead. In His resurrection, they had hope in victory over death.

Joy, hope, and mission are three consistent responses of the disciples to Christ's resurrection and ascension. In light of these two great events, we see the disciples transformed and mobilized to follow Jesus on His mission. And we can go forward with hope and joy because the King of the universe promises He will never leave or forsake us. If we want to experience greater transformation and the joy of following Jesus on mission, we should build our confidence on the finished and sufficient work of Jesus Christ.