

ST. LUKE'S RULE OF LOVE

(READ RESPONSIVELY)

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious; or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; It is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Called by God in our baptism and filled with the presence of Christ through the Lord's Supper, we believe love should show itself through our individual lives in:

Thought by **before acting, our thoughts should reflect kindness, grace and acceptance.**

Word by **hearing, respecting, praying for you with kindness, love and care.**

Deed by **putting others before oneself, being obedient to our faith in God and by acting in a God caring way towards others.**

As members of the body of Christ and citizens of the kingdom of heaven, we will show this love in our life together at St. Luke's Lutheran church:

In what we do by **listening in kindness and acceptance. Seek common ground, learn and adjust. If necessary, we disagree with love and respect.**

in responding to unloving and disrespectful behavior by **respectfully listening and clarifying your reasoning. We will strive to find a mutual solution through love and kindness. If necessary we will part ways with grace.**

BLESSING (ELW p. 155)

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

The God of all grace bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "WE ALL ARE ONE IN MISSION" ELW 576

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 155)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. Keith Copeland
Jim Merkel, Organ button pusher

Assisting Minister:

Greeter: Cozette Nowak
Reader: Rebekah Woodward
Communion: Rebekah Woodward &
Assistants: Jan Brauer
Audio/Video: Ami-Luise Vucovich
Ushers: Patrick Lemons
Altar Guild: Jan Brauer
Altar Flowers:

CONTACT US:

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Keith Copeland;
pastorkeith@stlukeselca.org
(704) 201-6633
Financial Recording Specialist, Kathy West;
west@stlukeselca.org
Office Administrator – Ami-Luise Vucovich;
office@stlukeselca.org

Church Website - www.stlukeselca.org

Saint Luke's Lutheran

3200 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209
(704) 523-7981

Second Sunday in Easter
April 7, 2024
10:00am



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

RITE OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION (ELW p. 227)

PROFESSION OF FAITH (ELW p. 229)

...Do you believe in God the Father? **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? **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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? **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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT (ELW p. 230)

BAPTISM (ELW p. 230)

Anthony Grayson DiPiano is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Congregation: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. **Alleluia.**

Let us pray... **Amen.**

WELCOME (ELW p. 231)

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

GATHERING SONG "BORNING CRY" ELW 732

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray...**Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35**(NRSV NT p. 148)**

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2**(NRSV NT p. 289)**

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**(ELW p. 151)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**(NRSV NT p. 141)**

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY****"HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION"****ELW 796****PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

....God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

....through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE**OFFERING****OFFERING RESPONSE****(ELW p. 152)**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER**(ELW p. 152)**

Let us pray...through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE**(ELW p. 152)**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE (ELW p. 153)**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY****(ELW p. 153)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**(ELW p. 153)****LORD'S PRAYER****(ELW p. 154)**

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**(ELW p. 154)**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of Grace! There are gluten free wafers and grape juice available.

COMMUNION SONG**(ELW p. 154)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**(ELW p. 155)**

Let us pray... through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**