**Faith & First**

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

## ~ June 16, 2024 ~

**Gathering**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\* Confession & Forgiveness** WOV pg. 10

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

***C: Amen.***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

***C: Amen.***

***\** Entrance Hymn *“Lord, Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”***

LBW #253 ELW #527

Vs. 1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now; our

hearts in true devotion bow. Your Spirit send with

light divine, and let your truth within us shine.

Vs. 2 Unseal our lips to sing your praise in

endless hymns through all our days; increase our faith and

light our minds; and set us free from doubt that blinds.

Vs. 3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, "O

holy, holy, Lord Most High!" And in the light of

that blest place we then shall see you face to face.

Vs. 4 All glory to the Father, Son, and

Holy Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessed

Trinity, be praise throughout eternity!

**Greeting** *WOV pg. 28*

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***WOV pg. 28*

P: Kyrie eleison:

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: Christe eleison:

***C: Christ, have mercy.***

P: Kyrie eleison:

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

**\* Hymn of Praise** *WOV pg.29*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone

are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth,

And peace to God’s people on earth.

**\* Prayer of the Day**

P: O God,

***C:*** ***you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

**Word**

**First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah’s royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

22Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. 23On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. 24All the trees of the field shall know that I am Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish, I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

**Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

1It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

**2to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;**

3on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

**4For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord; and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands. The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.**

12The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

**13Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

14they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;

**15that they may show how upright the Lord is, my rock, in whom there is no injustice. The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.**

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17**

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God’s new creation.*

**6**So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— **7**for we walk by faith, not by sight. **8**Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **9**So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. **10**For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive due recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

**11**Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. **12**We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. **13**For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. **14**For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. **15**And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

**16**From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. **17**So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**\* Gospel Acclamation** *WOV pg. 31*

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

**\* Gospel: Mark 4:26-34**

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God’s kingdom.*

**26**Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, **27**and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. **28**The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. **29**But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

**30**He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? **31**It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, **32**yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

**33**With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; **34**he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day “This Is My Father’s World”** LBW # 554 ELW #824

Vs. 1 This is my Father’s world, and to my list'ning ears all

nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
 This is my Father’s world; I rest me in the thought of

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

Vs. 2 This is my Father’s world; the birds their carols raise; the

morning light, the lily white, declare their maker’s praise.  
 This is my Father’s world; he shines in all that’s fair. In the

rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

Vs. 3 This is my Father’s world; oh, let me not forget that,

though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
 This is my Father’s world; why should my heart be sad? The

Lord is king, let the heaven ring; God reigns, let the earth be glad!

\* **Apostles’ Creed** *WOV pg. 33* 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 bur ied; he descended into hell.

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.

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 Prayers**

***Lord, listen to your children praying,*** *WOV #775*

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation; days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises especially

Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As you have loved us, let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With gratitude, we remember the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

**Meal**

**Peace**

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

***C: And also with you.***

**\* Offering *“Let the vineyards”*** *WOV pg. 35*

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 dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we

offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord,

and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

**\* Offering Prayer**

P: Merciful God,

***C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given to us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**\* Great Thanksgiving** *WOV pg. 36*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.***

**\* Words of Institution** *WOV pg. 36*

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

***C: Amen.***

**\* Lord’s Prayer** *WOV pg. 39*

***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.***

**Communion Distribution**

**\*Communion Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep

you in his grace.

***C: Amen.***

**\* Canticle** *WOV Pg. 40*

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell every-

one what God has done. Let all who seek the

Lord rejoice and bear Christ’s holy name.

Send us with your promises, O God,

and lead us forth in joy with shouts

Of thanksgiving. Alleluia.

**\* Prayer** WOV Pg. 41

P:Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

***C: Amen.***

**Sending**

**\* Blessing** WOV Pg. 41

P: Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\* Sending Hymn “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”** WOV #723

Vs. 1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in

Jesus’ name to bring glad tidings

to the poor, God’s favor to proclaim.

Vs. 2 We go to comfort those who mourn and set the

Burdened free; where hope is dim, to

Share a dream and help the blind to see.

Vs. 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter

Joy like seed and, all our days, to

Cherish life, to do the loving deed.

Vs. 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the Gospel

To proclaim. God’s Spirit has em-

Power’d us; we go in Jesus’ name.

**\* Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***