

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 16, 2024 - 10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

# FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## *Introduction*

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

## *God Gives the Growth*

In the life of faith, we often look at ourselves and wonder if we're really growing at all. The temptation to examine ourselves and despair over our flaws (or perhaps to look at others and judge their weaknesses) is ever-present. For us as Christians, the call to repentance is critical; we are to be aware of our shortcomings, confess them, and receive God's forgiveness. But we shouldn't be too hard on ourselves either.

In the gospel reading today, Jesus uses two farming or gardening analogies to portray the kingdom of God. In the first he describes the entire process—from planting, through the various growth phases, and finally to the harvest. In the second he speaks of the tiny mustard seed which, over time, grows so large that it provides shelter for other creatures.

This is the kingdom of God as a whole, and also the individual's life of faith. The seeds of faith are planted in holy baptism. Over time, God as gardener nurtures us through worship, prayer, holy communion, the practice of confession and absolution, and fellowship with other believers, such that we grow in faith toward God and love toward our neighbors. You, who started out as the tiniest of seeds or the greatest of sinners or were carelessly scattered by others, are gently tended by Jesus, the Master Gardener. You are brought into the kingdom of God so you can grow and thrive and become life-giving for others.

You may "not know how" this has happened; you may not notice it in yourself, or even in other people sometimes. But God gives the growth, and what God sets in motion will come to fruition. That we are promised. So be gentle with yourself and with others. Trust the Lord and be patient. You are being loved and nurtured and cared for, even at this very moment.

# GATHERING

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pastor Jamie Vannoy*

### \*\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God, **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### \*\* GATHERING HYMN

*For the Fruit of All Creation (ELW 679)*

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

The musical score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves, with three verses of text.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**\*\* GREETING**

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.**



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **G** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

\*\* CANTICLE OF PRAISE



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



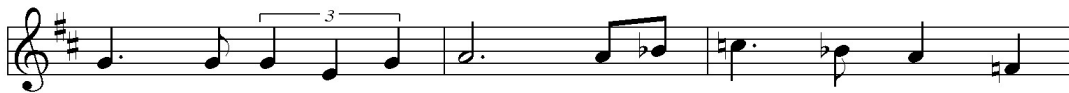
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer.



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Assistant Minister*

O God, 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.

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## 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.*

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

Thus 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. On 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. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the 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.

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

## PSALM

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

*The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon. (Ps. 92:12)*

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

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

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

**For 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 flourish like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

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

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

**that they may show how up right the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**



**SECOND READING****2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17**

*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.*

A reading from the second book of Corinthians.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. [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. 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. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died<sup>15</sup>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. 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. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

**\*\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the key of A major (indicated by three sharps: F#, C#, G#) and use a treble clef. The melody is written on a five-line staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps, and a common time signature. The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the first staff. The second staff is identical to the first, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the second staff.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*\* 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.*

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

[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 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." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE**

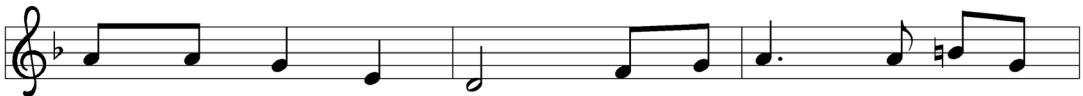
*Pr. Jamie Vannoy*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Tree of Life (ELW 334)*



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

**\*\* 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.**

**\*\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Assistant Minister*

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

*A brief silence is kept.*

*After each petition:*

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.**

**GATHERING OF GIFTS**

**OFFERTORY**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**\*\* DIALOGUE**



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:




♩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and




might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*\* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.



**\*\* LORD'S PRAYER** (*personal option - holding hands*)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

**HOLY COMMUNION** - *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Each person may respond:* **Amen.**

**Communion Statement** ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also*

*NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.*

LAMB OF GOD



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN***Good Soil (W&P 52)*

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

**\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

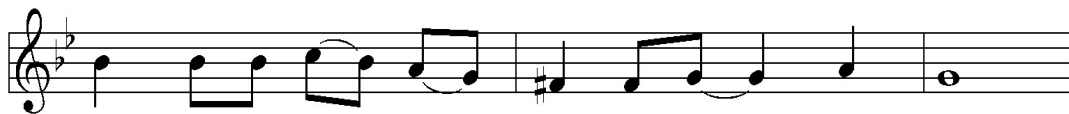
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**\*\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***Assistant Minister*

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**



HYMN AFTER COMMUNION: The Canticle of Simeon



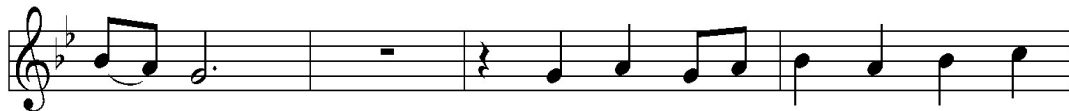
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace:



your word has been ful - filled. My own eyes have



seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre - pared in the sight of all



peo - ple: a light to re - veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son, glo - ry to the



Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and



will be for - ev - er. A - men, a - men, a - men.

# SENDING

**\*\* BLESSING**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*\* SENDING HYMN**

*How Great Is Our God (with How Great Thou Art)*

**(Verse 1 - All)**

**The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
And trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**(Verse 2 - All)**

**And age to age he stands, and time is in his hands;  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.  
The Godhead, three in one: Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**(How Great Thou Art, Verse 1 - All)**

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hands hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**(How Great Thou Art, Verse 2 - All)**

**But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin;  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,**

**How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

(Music Ministers/All)

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.

My heart will sing: How great is our God!

**Name above all names, worthy of all praise.**

**My heart will sing: How great is our God!**

(Refrain - All)

**How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!**

**And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!**

**And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

*Assistant Minister*

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.**

**Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;



praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**POSTLUDE**

**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two**  
**Make a commitment to not only worship each week**  
**but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation**  
**and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

### **Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015** **Monday, June 17, 2024**

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

### **Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931** **Friday, June 21, 2024**

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

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