

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
June 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

June 16, 2024

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit, and the continued growth given by our gracious God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or Spirit

Opening Sentences

- P** O Lord, open our lips,
C and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
- A** Blessed God, satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
C that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- P** Give praise to the Holy Trinity our true God,
C who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.



1 What is this place where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
 sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
 we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive



when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
 what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

☐ The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray... 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.**

Please be seated.

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 **Ezekiel**:

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 the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;

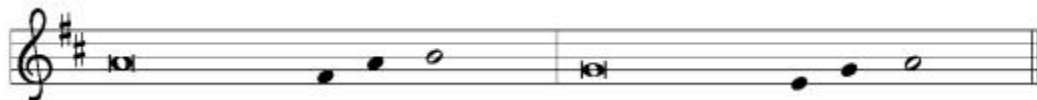
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

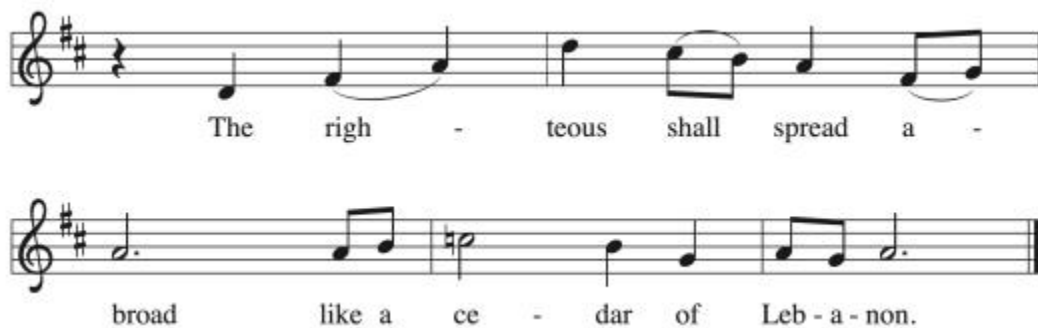
📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15




Refrain



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

²to herald your love ¹in the morning
and your faithful- ¹ness at night;


³on the psaltery, and ¹on the lyre,
and to the melody ¹of the harp.

⁴For you have made me glad by your ¹acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works ¹of your hands. 

¹²The righteous shall flourish ¹like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- ¹dar of Lebanon.

¹³Those who are planted in the house ¹of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts ¹of our God;

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit ¹in old age;
they shall be ¹green and succulent;

¹⁵that they may show how up- ¹right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is ¹no injustice. 

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.

L A reading from **2 Corinthians:**

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For 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.

¹¹Therefore, 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. ¹²We 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. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And 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.

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

WOV page 31

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

Gospel Reading

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.**

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. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet 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.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he 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.**

Please be seated.

Children's Message

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Please arise in body or spirit.

Song of the Day

We Raise Our Hands to You

ELW 690

- 1 We raise our hands to you, O Lord,
like empty vessels.
Oh, come to us and give us life
from springs where living waters flow.
- 2 What good and blessing you bestow
are freely given.
Your pow'r will make the weakest strong
and barren branches start to bud.
- 3 Oh, make our barren trees to grow,
our hands to blossom,
and let our lives bring forth such fruit
that heals our neighbor's grief and pain.
- 4 As summer follows springtime's rain,
grace follows sorrow,
and grief and joy shall bear much fruit,
though hidden from our human eyes.
- 5 Through grace your new creation lies
in hands held open.
O Giver of all goodness, come,
dwell with us in our earthly home.

Please be seated.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Merciful God.** The assembly prays, **Receive our prayer.***

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

A brief silence

A Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and 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. Guide and direct *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrissy and David, our synod companion Leer Lutheran Church, Posen; Saint Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, Shelbyville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Merciful God.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A 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.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A 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 the inclination toward anger and violence. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Merciful God.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain *especially Pastor Michael Anton, Mark Arens, Dennis Baarson, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Frank Bolton, Diana Brown, Walter Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Bob and Bonnie Ehredt, Opal Gillons, Lisa Golnek, Caitlyn Habben (pregnancy), Lorraine Handsbarger, Virginia Henion, Ed Markwart, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corinna Palmer, Rick Palmer, Sharon Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Patty Renne, Jennifer Rohr, Pastor Sara Samuelson (Trinity Lutheran Church, New Era), Mike Shoemaker, Ron Smith, Barry Swanson, Deb Talsma, Al Throop, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, and Brenda Watson.* Merciful God.

C **Receive our prayer.**

A As you have loved us, so 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.

C **Receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

☑ **Amen.**

Please arise in body or spirit.

Sharing the Peace of God

☐ The peace of Christ be with you.

☑ **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Offering Song

Let the Vineyards

WOV page 35




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



bles - sing. 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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore- taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

- Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine.
- Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

- 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.**
- 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:



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.

Table Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection.

We look with hope for Jesus' coming. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, our God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

☞ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

☞ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

☞ Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☞ **Thanks be to God!**



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



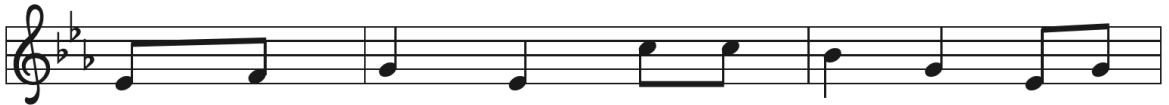
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



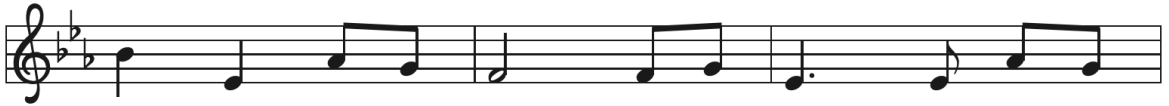
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



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



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

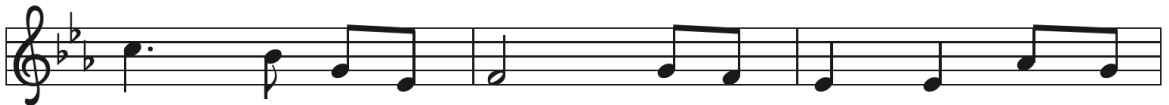


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.



This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with



mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,



bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
- C** Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- P** God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** Amen.



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.



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.

Sending

- A Go in peace. Christ is sending you.
- B Thanks be to God.

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Tim Schoessel
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Gwen Hansen
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – The Freedlunds

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.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Time and Talent Surveys are now available in the Gathering Area. Please return completed forms into the collection folder (also located in the Gathering Area) by July 1. Thank you.

Commitment Sunday Forms If you would still like to fill out a pledge form, they are available on the table in the Gathering Area.

Fifth Sunday Fellowship There will be a combined service at **10:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 30th** the Social Activities Committee is sponsoring a fifth Sunday fellowship time. Special treats will be available after the worship service. We look forward to seeing you!

Help Wanted Grace is seeking a treasurer for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Please contact Tim Schoessel if you are interested. We thank Linda Maupin for her service.

Welcome to worship today! We are thrilled that you are here. We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the risen Christ who breathes new life into us.

Please use this QR Code to access online giving.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 47 Views: 440
 Weekly Giving: \$5,245.00 Budget Amount: \$4,366.17
 Noisy Offering: \$9.99

Grace Projects Goal	\$25,252.00	HVAC Grace Project	\$564.50
Received To Date	- \$ 2,355.00	Received to Date	- \$ 0.00
Total Needed	\$22,897.00	Total Needed	\$564.50

Given this week toward Grace Projects: \$0

Sanctuary HVAC The HVAC has been repaired in the sanctuary. The Executive Committee is making this known so we can cover the cost of this repair in this fiscally challenging time. If you would like to help with this \$564.50 bill, please indicate “HVAC” with your donation. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

Staff Computer Offering the two church laptops have outgrown their capabilities to support the work of both Pastor Ken and Cindy. We are collecting a special offering to cover this expense. When donating, please indicate “computer fund” on your envelope. Thank you so much for your support of this important purchase.

The nursery is available weekly during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Adult Forum please join us at 9:30 with Pastor Ken leading the study.

Vehicle Needed Aurora, our nursery attendant, needs to borrow a car so she can take her driving test. If you can help, please call her at 269.953.5200.

Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show Please join us on **Sunday, July 28** for the 9th Annual Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show from 9:00 until 3:00. There will be a combined worship service beginning at 10:00. Registration for participants begins at 9:00 with dash plaques being given to the first 40 entrants. Food and beverages are being provided by Thrivent beginning at 11:30.

The 2024 Grace Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, JULY 14th at 9:30 am. Please plan to attend. Please submit all reports for the Annual Meeting by Sunday, June 2nd.