



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

Worship 11:00 A.M.

Minister: Rev. Diana Edis

Musician: Sheila Seidemann

Videographer: George Edis

Reader: Carol Bulford

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.

Weekly Prayer Petitions

Local: 50 years of ministry for the Sikh Temple in Prince Rupert, Seafarers Mission

Synod Parishes Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in Comox

ACC: The Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land

ELCIC/ACC: The National Indigenous Day of Prayer: for healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples

Discipleship Opportunities

1. The Pastor will not be public this week as she attends the BC Synod Convention.
2. Council meets Tuesday, June 18 both by Zoom and in-person at 7:00 PM.
3. Explorers and New Member class will not meet this week. We reconvene June 26.

* All Hymns and liturgical text reprinted under **One License**: # A-731124 and **Augsburg Fortress**: # SB157842

* Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF # SB157842.

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

As Rain from the Clouds

No. 508

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a treble and bass staff for the piano, with three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor/Bass) above it. The second system has a treble and bass staff for the piano, with two vocal staves (Soprano, Alto) above it. The third system has a treble and bass staff for the piano, with two vocal staves (Soprano, Alto) above it. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves.

1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,

as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.

Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow

and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.

We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;

we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.

We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,

for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

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.

Kyrie

Pg. 184

Refrain



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the
 2 That we may live out your im -
 3 For peace in our hearts, for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you



health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
 passionate re - sponse to the hun - gry and the poor;
 peace in our homes, for friends and fam - i - ly;
 cen - ter our lives in the wa - ter and the word;



for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
 that we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
 for life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
 that you nour - ish our souls . . . with your bo - dy and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Hymn of Praise

Pg 187

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*



This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Let us pray together our Prayer of the Day

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.

Our first reading is from Ezekiel, beginning at the 17th chapter

17:22-24

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.

The word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God

We read Psalm 92: 1-4, 12-15 responsively:

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 upright the Lord is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

Our second reading is from 2nd Corinthians beginning at the 5th chapter

5:6-17

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. 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!

The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

page 188

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Mark, beginning at the 4th chapter
Glory to you, O Lord

4:26-34

[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.

Sermon

Rev. Diana Edis

Hymn of the Day

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

No. 551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
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I have been chosen to be a delegate at the BC Synod Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, “One Body, One Spirit, One Hope.” Join with me and

with the whole church in the confession of our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed. We confess:

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 power of 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.

**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**

Leader: You are being sent as our delegate to this convention. Will you seek the guidance of God as you join others in making decisions for our synod? Will you bear the reconciliation of Christ as you work with others to determine the will of God for the future of our synod?

Delegate: Yes, I pray that God will help and direct me.

Leader: People of God, will you support this delegate in prayer? Will you pray for our BC Synod in Convention?

Congregation: We will.

The congregation extends their hands in blessing.

Leader: Pastor Diana, we bless you as you go forth in the name of God to serve us and all the people of God in the work of our Synod Convention. May the light of Christ shine in you. May the Spirit of Christ guide you. May God bless you in your travel, the work of convention, and in your homecoming.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world. Hearing the words "Merciful God," God's people may reply, "receive our prayer."

A brief silence.

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. 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 the 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. 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, 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, **receive our prayer.**

Grant us the courage to celebrate the beautiful spectrum of humanity, embracing all identities with compassion and understanding. Strengthen us to stand against injustice and discrimination, and guide us in building a world where every person is valued and affirmed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator, Great Spirit, we thank you for gathering us today to celebrate and honour the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. We recognize the sacredness of the drum, the powerful symbol of unity, healing, and connection to the earth. As we worship, guide us to listen deeply, embrace compassion, and seek understanding. May our journey together strengthen the bonds of unity and foster the spirit of reconciliation. 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.

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Offerings may be mailed to the church, placed in our mailbox, sent by e-transfer to offering2stpauls@citywest.ca, or given at CanadaHelps to St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.

Let us pray,

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

Amen.

We enter a time of communion. All people are invited to receive God's meal. If you wish to receive, this meal is for you. If you would like to learn about communion please speak with the pastor after worship. Those at home may prepare bread and wine or juice for your worship space. When you receive the elements and eat and drink you may respond, "Amen." We have bread or gluten-free wafers, wine or juice; please let your server know which options are needed.

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 good to cry out for the waters of justice to roll down, bringing heaven on earth, watering it with God's will for love-soaked humanity since creation began. For God continues to stand with and for all peoples. And so we sing with all the company of heaven:

Holy, holy, holy

pg 190

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, just, and merciful God. New birth for creation broke forth upon us in Jesus. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. In these acts of love and justice, we see the birth of our call as church to let the waters of justice roll, knowing we have been delivered from death through a covenant of water and the Spirit.

In this moment, we remember all who suffer in our day and imagine how Jesus would respond to them. In this silence, I invite you to call them to mind and heart.

A time of silence

Just as he said that last night with his disciples, Jesus says to us, "Come, gather around my friends." This common bread at our table is much more than it seems. This is the brokenness of the world, and it has become my body. Whenever there is suffering, I suffer with you. I am broken for you. This common cup at our table is much more than it seems. The blood of innocent ones is too often shed at the hands of oppressors.

Whenever there is suffering, I suffer with you. I pour out my life's blood for you. As you eat this bread and drink this wine I call on you to give yourselves up in the same way that I have.

But death will not have the last word. Christ has risen! And suffering will end. Christ will come again... ..and again and again, every time suffering is alleviated, comfort is given, food is offered, hope is restored. Loving Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on this body gathered here and on our union with each other and with these gifts of bread and cup. May we become your body for the sake of a world where justice rolls down like an ever-flowing stream

Amen.

Gathered into one across time and space by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using whatever version of that prayer comforts you. We pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed 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.**

Lamb of God

pg. 191





Hymns during communion:

We Come to the Hungry Feast

No. 479

- 1 We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.
- 2 We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind, the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.
- 3 We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay with us; still
we come, we come to the hungry feast.

I Received the Living God

No. 477

Refrain I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.
I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.

- 1 Jesus said: I am the bread, kneaded long to give you life;
you who will partake of me need not ever fear to die. *Refrain*
- 2 Jesus said: I am the way, and my Father longs for you;
so I come to bring you home to be one with us anew. *Refrain*
- 3 Jesus said: I am the truth; come and follow close to me.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free. *Refrain*
- 4 Jesus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,
but receive this living bread, and my Spirit you shall know. *Refrain*

Text: Anonymous

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour strengthen you to eternal life.

Amen

Prayer after communion

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us out from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

Blessing

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

No. 547

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing
to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.