


The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 16, 2024

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Hymns are found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* in your pew.
The 'S' numbers are located at the front of the hymnal.

The service begins in quiet and prayer.

Prelude: *Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele, BWV 654* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn 408: *Sing Praise to God*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

People **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gloria, Hymn S-280: *Glory to God* (10:00 am only)

People **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. 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. 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.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: *Ezekiel 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14

¹ It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, *
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;

² To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning *
and of your faithfulness in the night season;

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

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

¹¹ The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, *
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹² Those who are planted in the house of the Lord *
shall flourish in the courts of our God;

¹³ They shall still bear fruit in old age; *
they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁴ That they may show how upright the Lord is, *
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.

The Second Lesson: *II Corinthians 5:6-17*

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!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 588: *Almighty God*

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel: *Mark 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.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

The Prayers of the People

Please stand or kneel

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own. Loving our neighbors as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world. *A brief silence* O God, let your church be like a great tree, giving shade and shelter to all who seek respite. Under its branches let the world rest in your grace.

People **God of love, hear our prayer.**

Seeds require time to grow. Help us continue to water and nourish your word, confident that in time it will take root, growing strong as an elm, giving life and shelter to others. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks on this day for our fathers and for those who have been like fathers to us. We are grateful for their efforts to balance the demands of work, marriage, and children. We give thanks for those who, despite divorce, remain an important part of their children's lives, and for stepfathers who choose the obligations of fatherhood. We pray that you will strengthen all fathers, that they may guide with wisdom, gentleness, and grace; and we give thanks for those fathers who have died but live on in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

On this Juneteenth holiday week, grant us grace to fearlessly contend against evil and to make no peace with racism and oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our youth who are on pilgrimage in England. Keep them healthy and safe and draw them into ever deeper connection with you, each other, and their own best selves. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

You are the source of life and health. We pray for those who are ill this day, including those on our prayer list, and those we name in our hearts or aloud. *Silence* Surround them with your care and restore them to health and wholeness in your good time and way. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence, let us pray for those who are dear to us. *Silence* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died, remembering especially Kenneth Hopkins-Powers, who died this week; Samuel Schneider in whose memory the flowers are given this morning; and all those we love but see no longer. *Silence* Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, rest in peace. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant 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. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Voluntary: *The Bird's Song* Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Celia Bridges, Soprano

[Text: Psalm 23 on page 612 of the Book of Common Prayer]

Children's Entrance Hymn 302: *Father, We Thank Thee*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ.

Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.

The people stand or kneel as the Celebrant gives thanks for the reconciling work of Christ through his passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People **Christ has died.**

Christ has risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic prayer.

Celebrant By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit of all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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 for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Please come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The priest will place the bread in your outstretched palm (Consecrated rice wafers are available for those with wheat allergies - simply ask the priest). You may dip (intinct) the bread in the wine in the small cup held by the Eucharistic minister. Alternatively, you may indicate your desire to drink from the common chalice by consuming the bread and remaining at the rail after the Eucharistic minister passes; another Eucharistic minister will bring the large chalice over for you to drink from directly. Please know that Christ is fully present in both the bread and the wine - there is no requirement to receive both. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward, cross your hands over your chest, and receive a blessing.

Communion Voluntary: *O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 618* J.S. Bach

Communion Hymn 339: *Deck Thyself; My Soul, with Gladness*

When Lay Eucharistic Visitors are taking Holy Communion to those unable to be with us in person, we say the following

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 524: *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

The young people are invited to come forward during the hymn to participate in the dismissal.

Young people Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Wir Christenleut', BWV 612* J.S. Bach