

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Our mission: Belong. Believe. Be sent. Share Jesus Christ for Life



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

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.

Prelude Be Still and Adore

by Michael Shea
Elizabeth Smith, keyboardist

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

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.**

Ky-ri-e e-lei - son, on our world and on our way.
 Ky-ri-e e-lei - son, ev-'ry day. For peace in the world.
 For your Spir - it to guide;
 for the health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all;
 that you 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 the
 let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
 hun - gry and the poor, let us pray to the Lord.

Short Interlude

Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; Lord a - lone, to you we call,
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, God most high, yet near to all.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir-it, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 Hear our prayer, re - store, for - give us; here on earth our songs we raise.

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.

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 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.

After reading: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God! [Silence for reflection.](#)

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

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

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;
²**to 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.
⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**
¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
¹³**Those 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;
¹⁵**that they may show how upright the Lord is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

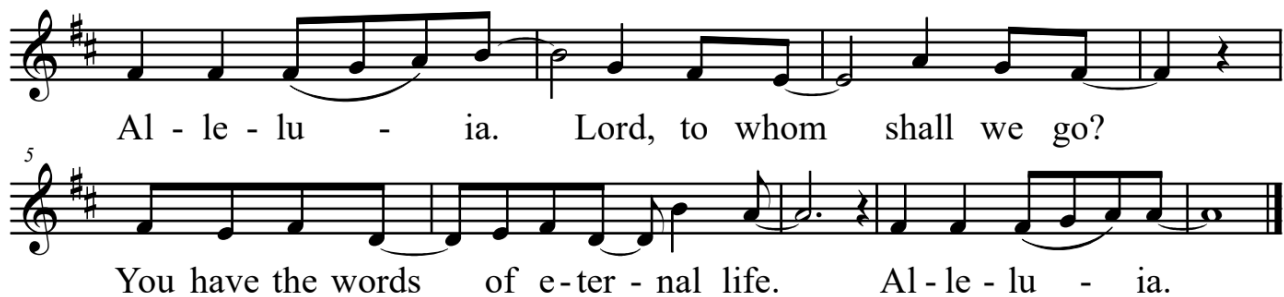
Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

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!

After reading: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God! Silence for reflection.



Gospel: *The Holy Gospel, according to Mark 4:26-34. Glory to you, O Lord.*

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.

²⁶Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and 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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Silence for reflection.*

Children's Story

Apostle's Creed

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 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.

Prayers of Intercession

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

Especially those on our current prayer list... The family of Dave (Amy) Neild on the death of his step-mother Janice. Denise Rohrer- home & fighting infection from the hospital, and upon the death of her mother, Mary; John and Bridgette Curtis, Jack Williams and Daughters, Betty and Darell Yankey, Dan Speicher, Robbie and Steve Rohrer, Peter Siddons, Norma Burke, Todd and Linda, Tony Rogers, Craig, Stephanie, Jane Ann Airgood, Nancy Shenefield, Earl McKinley, Peggy Gilbert, Linda Hampton, Marie Betten-Niccum, Joanne Boettcher, Lois Dowd, Phyllis Werking, Darlene Shear, Faith Miller, Jon Frieden, John Fairfield, Ron & Sharon Miller, Grover and Janice Archer, victims of war, famine, displacement, slavery and human trafficking; Environmental Concerns, Spirit of Discernment for the People of Zion Lutheran Church as we seek the Lord's Guidance for the way forward. We continue to pray for people who are enslaved and trafficked. As well as Global Environmental Concerns affecting our local Quality of Life. 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.**

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.**

Offering Prayer

Jesus, **Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

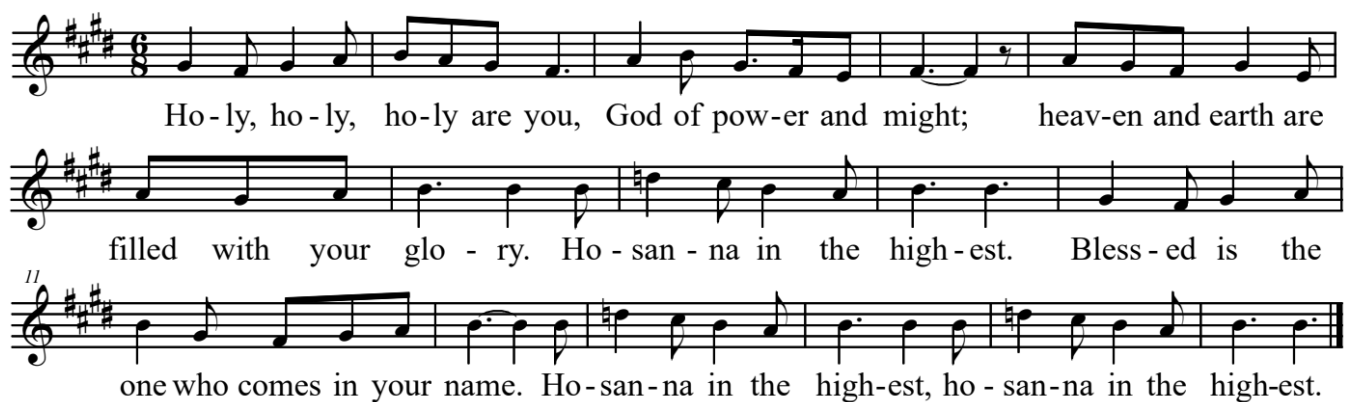
The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you! **C: And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts! **C: We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God! **C: 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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with the earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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 in 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

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!

Voluntary *There Is a Redeemer*

by Green, arr. Sanborn

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.

Prayer after Communion

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.

Be-long, be-lieve, be sent: share Je - sus Christ for life!

Be-long, be-lieve, be sent: share Je - sus Christ for life!

Blessing (we bless one another)

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

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Matinée de Mai (May Morning)*

by Gounod

Announcements:

Prayer List: The family of Dave (Amy) Neild on the death of his step-mother Janice. Denise Rohrer-home & fighting infection from the hospital; and upon the death of her mother, Mary; John and Bridgette Curtis, Jack Williams and Daughters, Betty and Darell Yankey, Dan Speicher, Robbie and Steve Rohrer, Peter Siddons, Norma Burke, Todd and Linda, Tony Rogers, Craig, Stephanie, Jane Ann Airgood, Nancy Shenefield, Earl McKinley, Peggy Gilbert, Linda Hampton, Marie Betten-Niccum, Joanne

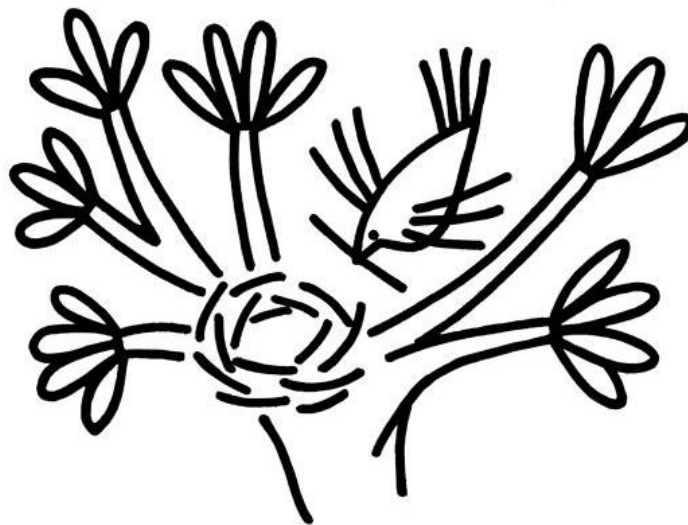
Boettcher, Lois Dowd, Phyllis Werking, Darlene Shear, Faith Miller, Jon Frieden, John Fairfield, Ron & Sharon Miller, Grover and Janice Archer, victims of war, famine, displacement, slavery and human trafficking; Environmental Concerns, Spirit of Discernment for the People of Zion Lutheran Church as we seek the Lord's Guidance for the way forward. We continue to pray for people who are enslaved and trafficked. As well as Global Environmental Concerns affecting our local Quality of Life.

Please call JP Freeman with prayer concerns or updates on the people of Zion.

JP Freeman, Interim Congregational Caregiver
260-578-0356 | jpf0356@gmail.com | 502 E. 2nd St., N. Manchester, IN 46962

Preaching Schedule

6/23 = Pastor Kathleen Haller



Service Music Acknowledgments.

Kyrie Eleison: ELW Holy Communion Setting 8, by Larry Olson
Canticle of Praise: ELW Holy Communion Setting 10, alt.
Gospel Acclamation: ELW Holy Communion Setting 6, by Tillis Butler
Holy, Holy, Holy: from Now the Feast and Celebration by Marty Haugen
Lamb of God: ELW Holy Communion Setting 4
Mission Song: Alan Chambers

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church's Mission Statement

To Belong, to Believe, to be Sent: share Jesus Christ for Life.

*The Lord is calling Zion to live out its calling **to belong** to Jesus Christ and to each other by virtue of our baptism; **to believe** in Jesus Christ by virtue of faith given as a gift of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament; **to be sent** by Jesus Christ as ambassadors of the Gospel in our homes, workplaces, communities, and to the ends of the earth.*

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Info

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