

## God's Service Sunday, June 16, 2024

4th Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Service of the Word



### WELCOME

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.

Let us take a moment now to prepare our hearts and minds for God's service as we listen to our prelude.

### PRELUDE *I Sing of My God* by Pepping

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### GATHERING SONG *God, Whose Farm Is All Creation* (ELW 734)

- 1 God, whose farm is all creation,  
take the gratitude we give;  
take the finest of our harvest,  
crops we grow that we may live.
- 2 Take our plowing, seeding, reaping,  
hopes and fears of sun and rain,  
all our thinking, planning, waiting,  
ripened in this fruit and grain.
- 3 All our labor, all our watching,  
all our calendar of care  
in these crops of your creation,  
take, O God: they are our prayer.

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### GREETING (ELW p. 213)

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.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 176)**

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

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.**

## **WORD**

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **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.

<sup>22</sup>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.

<sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>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: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks <sup>1</sup> to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, <sup>1</sup> O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love <sup>1</sup> in the morning  
and your faithful- <sup>1</sup> ness at night;**  
<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and <sup>1</sup> on the lyre,  
and to the melody <sup>1</sup> of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your <sup>1</sup> acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works <sup>1</sup> of your hands. R**  
<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish <sup>1</sup> like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a ce- <sup>1</sup> dar of Lebanon.  
<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house <sup>1</sup> of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts <sup>1</sup> of our God;**  
<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit <sup>1</sup> in old age;  
they shall be <sup>1</sup> green and succulent;  
<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how up- <sup>1</sup> right the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is <sup>1</sup> no injustice. R**

**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 2 Corinthians.

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

<sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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 (ELW p. 179)**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia! Alleluia!

**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.**

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

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

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY *For the Fruit of All Creation (ELW 679)***

- 1 For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,  
thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

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## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

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 Shirley, Jim, Melissa, Heather, Lars, Anna, Gene, Chris, Susan, Cheryl, and these others we name now in our hearts and with our voices. (pause for names to be spoken). . 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 Rolly Gimple, *the Emanuel Nine martyrs and all* 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.**

## **PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

*We give thanks for the saving word and all the gifts of god.*

## **SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANCE**

The cross is the tree of life 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 providing abundance without measure.

If you have abundance to share please raise your hand and an user will come to collect it. Thank you for your ministry and generosity in sharing God's gifts.

## **OFFERING MUSIC *Christ, Whose Glory* arr. by Keith**

## **SETTING OF THE TABLE *Let Us Go Now to the Banquet: Vamos todos al banquete* (ELW 523 refrain & verse 2)**

### *Refrain*

Let us go now to the banquet,  
to the feast of the universe.

The table's set and a place is waiting;  
come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.

- 2 God invites all the poor and hungry  
to the banquet of justice and good  
where the harvest will not be hoarded  
so that no one will lack for food. *Refrain/*

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## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; teaching us to pray;

**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.**

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS (ELW p. 221)**

#### **BLESSING (ELW p. 221)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG *Sent Forth by God's Blessing (ELW 547)***

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

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## **DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)**

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **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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