

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



We are committed to invite and welcome all to Jesus Christ,
to equip all with an active faith that works in real life,
and together go into the world to serve in Jesus' name.

Please stand

HYMN 842 "Oh Worship the King"

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be God, Who forgives all our sin, Whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: God, our strength,

C: we confess that we are captive to the power of sin that dwells within us. We put ourselves first and others last. What we think will make us happy leaves us longing for more. Even when we want to do what is good, we find ourselves doing the opposite. Rescue us from death's grip on our lives, and raise us up day by day, that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

P: Sisters and brothers, all have fallen short of the glory of God; therefore we are justified by God's grace as a gift. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, in Whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

C: Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 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!

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al le lu ia, al le lu ia!

Al le lu ia, al le lu ia!

P: The Holy Gospel according to the fourth chapter of Mark.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 4:26-34

He also 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 king-

dom 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.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN 516 "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"

SERMON

Pastor Seth Jersild

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

Response:

P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy.....

...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est."

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: **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.**

DISTRIBUTION

Please follow the instructions from the pastor for distribution.

Believing in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sin, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to the Lord's Table.

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 550 "On What Has Now Been Sown"

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Risen Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

FINISHING COMMUNION AT HOME AFTER CHURCH St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City OH

For your safety and comfort, we will be distributing pre-packaged communion kits to members during worship for everyone to take home, rather than eating and drinking in the church building.

The bread and wine will be consecrated with the Words of Jesus during corporate worship, and will be ready to consume afterwards. However, since it is important to have the words of Jesus fresh in our ears before taking the sacrament, we strongly encourage you to use the following order of service once you get home.

First, unpeel the wafer(s) from the top of the package. Then unseal the juice and place the wafer and juice before you on a table, so that the elements are ready to be consumed.

Then, say the following aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *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."*

Now, partake of the wine and bread, trusting that the resurrected Lord Jesus is truly present in the sacrament **for you**, giving you the fullness of his forgiveness, life, and salvation.

After eating and drinking, we suggest saying the following prayer aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy, you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love for one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



JUNE 13, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



The reign of God will not be stopped.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus
Monday	Ezekiel 17:22-24	Israel to return from exile
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Living by faith
Wednesday	Psalms 107:4-22	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Thursday	Acts 5:27-42	The apostles are persecuted
Friday	Zachariah 8:1-17	God's promises to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15	A song for the sabbath day
Sunday	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus calms the sea

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"[The kingdom of God] 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." **Mark 4:31-32 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, in Christ Jesus we thank you that by day and by night your reign of steadfast love and faithfulness will not be stopped. (Psalm 92:1-2)

Mealttime Prayer:

Nurturing God, for the seed that becomes the plant that supplies the food that shows your love, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love and faithfulness of God bless you now and always. (Psalm 92:2)



JUNE 13, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

As Rain from the Clouds



taking
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Describe your experience with gardening and planting seeds.
- Think or talk about a time you have seen an act of kindness make a big difference in someone's life.
- Jesus describes the reign of God through images of tiny seeds and growth. In what way is this a message about God's kingdom?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 4:26-34.

With Jesus' depiction of the kingdom of God, one would expect comparisons to something like spectacular cedar trees of Lebanon (Ezekiel 17:22 and Psalm 92:12) or some other vision of grandeur. Jesus chooses something more akin to a weed, a mustard bush that is prolific in Judea. It's an example that likely made his hearers chuckle, not gasp with indescribable awe; it's another example of getting people to see differently. Just as relentless as mustard bushes or weeds are, God's reign will not be deterred. It is like the seed planted that grows and grows without human intervention. As the Gospel of Mark gets underway, the message is that the kingdom is coming. The kingdom is viewed through surprising, even humorous comparisons. It will not be stopped, not by evil, not by scribes, not by disciples who fail again and again. Evil will be overcome, voices of the kingdom will be heard, and imperfect followers will keep pointing to Christ's victory over sin and death. How do you help others see the kingdom of God more clearly?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see and believe with the eyes of faith that your reign will win the day through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



The smallest of seeds planted can become the largest of plants. Likewise, the smallest acts of kindness can grow to make a very large difference in someone's life. Think of someone who is not so visible or lonely and reach out to them. In what way does reaching out to them grow the kingdom of God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Use a leafless branch and cut out leaf shapes. During devotion time this week, think or talk about ways you have seen and felt God at work in the world. Write down those ways on leaves and add them to the branch. Praise and thank God each time you add leaves by praying: **Dear God, we thank you for caring for us. May your presence in our lives help us to continue to grow and care for others, even in ways we may not see or understand. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Third Sunday after Pentecost – June 13, 2021

“The kingdom of God is...” (Mark 4:26)

The simple, straightforward opening line of Mark’s Gospel announces the theme right off the bat, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

But when the story turns to Jesus and his ministry, we discover the story is not so simple or straightforward. The first words out of Jesus’s mouth proclaim that the good news about God is that God’s kingdom has now come near, and he calls for his hearers to change their hearts and lives. Though not in Mark’s Gospel, Matthew and Luke tell us that Jesus taught his disciples to pray “your kingdom come.” But as Martin Luther said in the Small Catechism, “God’s kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.”

What does God’s coming kingdom mean for us who are attempting to follow Jesus?

The kingdom is like a sower who sows seed enthusiastically, even wastefully, on different types of soil, but the seed grows secretly and the sower “knows not how.” Still the seed grows and the harvest comes. Are we hardworking type people sure we want to hear Jesus say that the kingdom comes without us doing anything? The kingdom is not really under our control and is utterly independent of our efforts. The parable of the mustard seed contrasts its small size and the large shrub. Imagine that, from seed to shrub without our intervention or help!

But that doesn’t mean we’re not to respond. Four times in this section Jesus calls attention to how important hearing is (vs. 9, 20, 22, 33). What are we to do for the kingdom? Listen. The point seems to be on the mysterious, secret nature of the kingdom of God and that it is a gift of God for us.

This parable about the seed secretly growing is hard for us to listen to because we think of ourselves as “movers and shakers.” We believe that anything we set our minds on is possible, even achievable, if we work hard and trust our own abilities. But perhaps Jesus is saying that the things we need most in life like love, purpose, and joy, can’t be self-produced. If we are to have them, they will be as gifts, as mysterious, unplanned, and unearned grace from God to us. Now that’s good news! Amen.