

# Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

**June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

9:00 am

Service of Holy Communion



*281 Years of  
"Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love"*

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA  
Founded in 1743

Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – service led by Pastor Taylor

*Today's Bulletins are sponsored by Laura Clark and family; in honor and memory of my parents, Irwin "Bud" Custer and Beatrice S. Custer on their wedding anniversary.*

*In honor and memory of my husband, Ronald B. Clark, and my dad, Irwin "Bud" Custer on Father's Day,*

*and in honor of my son, Craig Clark on Father's Day.*

## INTRODUCTION

*We embody our reverence for God's presence in many different ways. You may show your reverence for God's presence in whatever way is right for you. You might do this by standing, folding your hands or raising them, bowing your head, or entering more deeply into reverence in ways that are not visible, even as they are deeply felt.*

In today's gospel, the mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We might expect a strong tree like a cedar, or a huge tree like the sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a weed that cannot be stopped. This is our tree of life - the shrub of the mustard seed, 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.

## PRELUDES

On Tannenberg: **"Opening Voluntary"**

W. Clark Ainley

On Piano: **"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"**

Words and Music by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin Arr. Carol Tornquist

On Allen Organ: **"Come, Follow Me, The Savior Spake"**

Tune: Bartholomaeus Gesius, Setting Robert J. Powell

## 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.

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

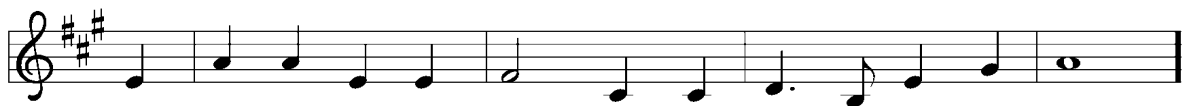
## HYMN "We Plow the Fields and Scatter" – ELW #681, All verses



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

*Refrain*



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*Whenever the cross symbol appears, all may make the sign of the cross on their own bodies: forehead, chest, left shoulder, right shoulder.*

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 sins in the presence of God and one another.

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, we are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, we are shown God's mercy:

together we are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

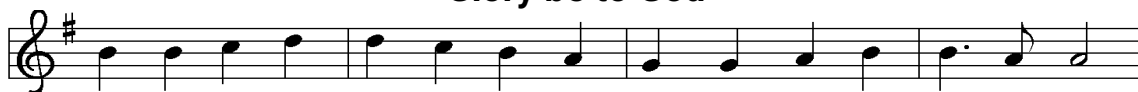
Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. May we all find home within your branches and know that we are all one family. And may our faith grow wild throughout the world, as unstoppable as the mustard tree.

Amen.

### "Glory be to God"



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

*The imagery of the mighty cedar is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

<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.

This is the word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

*The Psalm is read responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love in the morning  
and your faithfulness at night;**  
<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and on the lyre,  
and to the melody of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands. ...**

<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.  
<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**  
<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit in old age;  
they shall be green and succulent;  
<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how upright the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

## Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

*In the second letter to the Corinthians, Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. In other words, we shouldn't consider Jesus from a human perspective, but through the eyes of faith. What could that mean?*

<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!

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*At this time, the congregation may rise in body or in spirit to greet the holy gospel.*

## ACCLAMATION

## “Alleluia”



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

This is the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>[When they were alone, Jesus said to the disciples,] “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

## SILENT MEDITATION

*We are called in and out of a time of reflection and wonder by the ringing of a bell.*

## HYMN

## "For the Fruit of All Creation" – ELW #679, All verses



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## BLESSING FOR FATHER'S DAY

Today is Father's Day - a beautiful day for some and a hard day for others.  
So let us look to Biblical witness.

Today we remember fathers like...

Jacob, who had a huge family that made up the kingdom of Israel, and  
Abraham, who desperately wanted a child but didn't have one for a hundred years.

We remember Moses, who never knew his father, and  
the prodigal son, who was estranged from his father for many years.

We remember Jesse, the shepherd who raised a king,  
and Zechariah, the priest who raised a wild prophet!

We remember Jairus, whose daughter died,  
and Esther, whose father died.

We remember Noah, who kept his family safe in the flood, and  
Joseph, the stepfather to our Lord, who loved Jesus as his own flesh and blood.

All this is to say...

Whoever you are, whatever your story is,  
God's people have been through it before.  
You are not alone.



## 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 **Barbara Winter, Dave Grubb, Brian Mickiewicz, David Tyson, Eric Harter, Joan Emswiler, Jeanette Kaufmann, Aubree Pascale, Holly Bauman, Mary Lesh, Brookelyn Rogers, Bob Bell, Dan DeFusco, Belinda Schell, Barbara Carberry, Fran O'Neill, Lisa McComb, Paula Kaiser; as well as the Battens**. 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 sorrow and hope we remember 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,  
**Amen.**

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another!

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children (and guardians) are invited to come close for a story.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### **"Fairest Lord Jesus"**

Tune: Traditional Hymn Tune, Arr. by Lloyd Larson

Piano Solo by Lori Hoshaw

## 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.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Though the sacrament of communion is most appropriate for baptized Christians, all are welcome at Christ's table, and nothing in all creation can separate you from the love of God. If you would like to come forward for a blessing instead of communing, you may indicate that by crossing your hands over your chest. If you would like to take communion at your seat, please let an usher know and the ministers will come to you.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 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;  
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
 In these weeks after Pentecost, in this time of the color green  
 and the Spirit poured out on us, with all the choirs of angels,  
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,  
you alone are holy,  
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars;  
beneath the sea;  
within each cell;  
with every breath.  
We praise you, O God.  
**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:  
through the water;  
by night and day;  
across the wilderness;  
out of exile;  
into the future.  
We bless you, O God.  
**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
at the heart of human life;  
near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner;  
among the poor;  
with us now.  
We thank you, O God.  
**We thank you, O God.**

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.

Remembering his love for us  
on the way,  
at the table,  
and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering;  
within this meal;  
among your people;  
throughout the world.  
**Amen.**

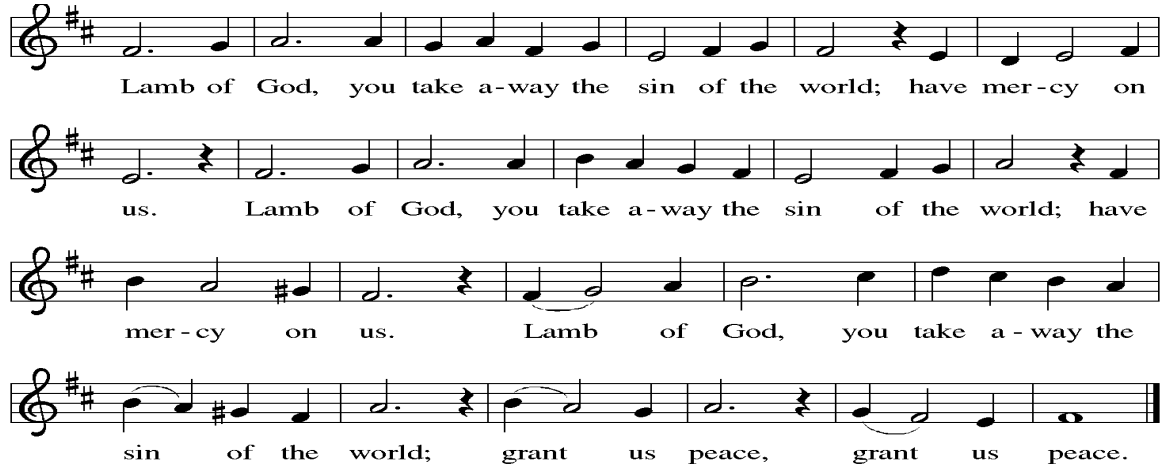
Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:  
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our  
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, for the table is ready.  
**Amen.**

During the Lamb of God, communion ministers will come forward and take communion. Once the ministers are ready, the congregation may come forward, row by row. Wine and juice will be available on the left side of the altar, and wine on the right side.

### "Lamb of God"



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.

## SHARING IN COMMUNION

This is the Body of Christ given for you  
I believe or Amen (Congregation may eat the bread or wafer)

This is the Blood of Christ given for you  
I believe or Amen (Congregation may drink the wine or juice)

## COMMUNION HYMNS

### #1 – "Let Us Break Bread Together" - ELW #471

Text & Music: African American Spiritual

### #2 – "Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal"- ELW #464

Text: Ray Makeever, Rusty Edwards, Music: Ray Makeever; arr. Rusty Edwards

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.  
Amen.

## 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.

## SENDING HYMN "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" – ELW #547, All verses

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 give work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
to give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

## BLESSING

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

Amen.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

### "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

Franz Joseph Haydn, Arr. R. Hughes

## Bible Readings for the Week – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Monday	Ezekiel 31:1-12	Evil can be a towering cedar
Tuesday	Jeremiah 22:1-9	The evil will be cut down
Wednesday	Mark 4:1-20	The parable of the sower
Thursday	Genesis 3:14-24	Deprived of the tree of life
Friday	Revelation 21:22-22:5	Given the tree of life
Saturday	Psalms 52	Like an olive tree in God's house

### **LICENSES:**

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

From *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress.

Liturgy by: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953, J Bert Carlson 1937-2017 © 2020 Augsburg Fortress Music, GIA Publications

### **LICENSES FOR MUSIC:**

Use of Hymns/Aclamations/Music via Public Domain, except where allowed by the following licenses:

- ONE LICENSE #400720-M
- CCLI License #20777864

---

## Zion Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Southeastern Pa. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Confidential email: [pastortaylor@zionofspringcity.org](mailto:pastortaylor@zionofspringcity.org)

*Taylor Walker, Pastor*

*Lori Hoshaw, Music Director*

*Amy Kirk, Social Media Editor*

*Shawn Rogers, Christian Education Director & Sexton*

*Jack Florio, Treasurer*

*Erin Galamba, Office Manager*

*Daniel L. Bauman, Cemetery Superintendent & Maintenance Manager*

Church Telephone: 610-948-3323 - e-mail: [church@zionofspringcity.org](mailto:church@zionofspringcity.org)

Web site: [www.zionofspringcity.org](http://www.zionofspringcity.org) - Facebook: Zion of Spring City

Online giving link: <https://www.zionofspringcity.org/electronic-giving/>

## Zion Lutheran Pre-School

*Dawn Platchek, Director*, Phone: 610-948-3440

e-mail: [info@zionlutheranpreschool.com](mailto:info@zionlutheranpreschool.com)

---