

A mustard seed,
the smallest seed...
grows up
and becomes the
biggest of all plants...
birds come and
make their nests
in its shade.

Mark 4:31,32 (GNB)



4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

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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

Marsha Vanderwerff

Welcome

Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lane

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C. Amen.

P. Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. God, our provider,

C. 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.

P. 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.

C. Amen.

Peace

The Peace

P. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.

Gathering Hymn

We Are Marching in the Light

ELW 866

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.

Kyrie



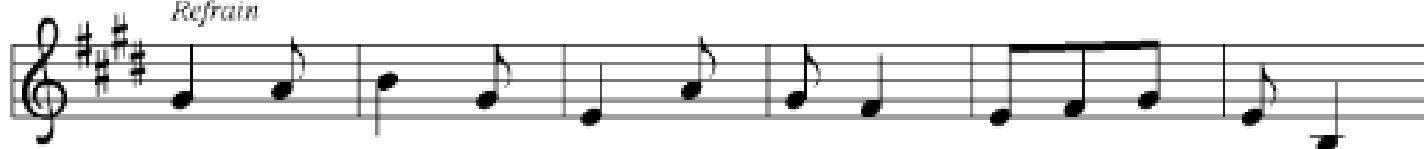
1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.



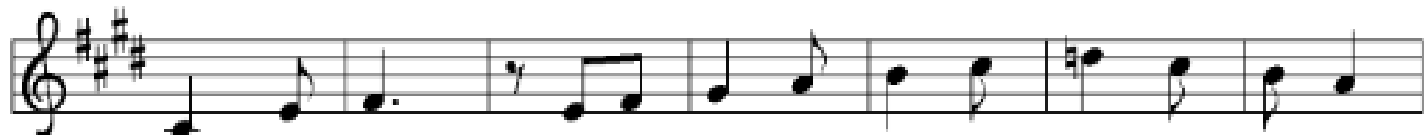
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Now the Feast and Celebration

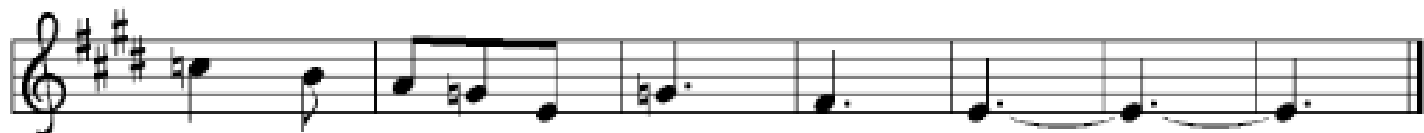
Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain

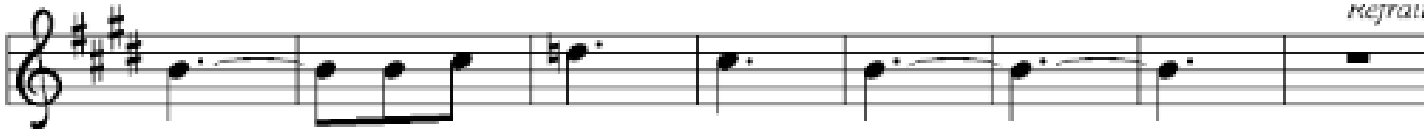


glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain



God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

A. 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.

C. Amen.

And all the trees of the field
shall know that I am the
LORD;
I bring low the high tree,
and make high the low tree,
dry up the green tree,
and make the dry tree flourish.
I am the lord; I have spoken,
and I will do it.”

Ezekiel 17:24



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.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.



Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

Spoken Responsively

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.**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come!

-2 Corinthians 5:17-



Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

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!

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P. The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

C. **Glory to you, O God.**

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.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and 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."



INTERCESSION

Prayers of Intercession

A. 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,

C. receive our prayer.

A. 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,

C. receive our prayer.

Other Prayers

P. Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

C. Amen.

The Offering

Anthem

You Are Good

Choir

~ Israel Houghton & New Breed – CCLI Song #3383788

Canticle

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 188

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A. 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.

C. Amen.

The 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 our thanks and praise.

P. 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. And so, 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:



The Sanctus



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

P. 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.



The Lord's Prayer

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

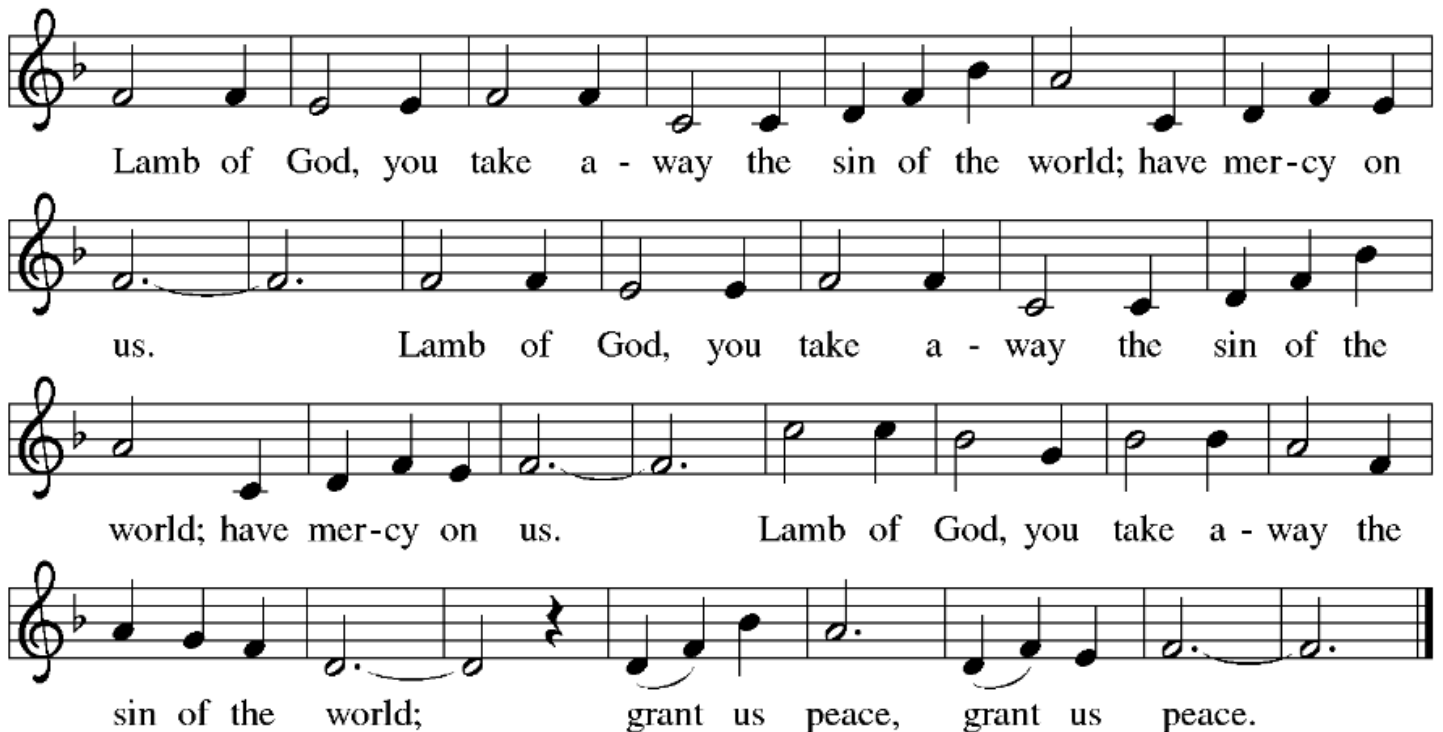
Invitation to Communion

P. Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Come! All are welcome, no exceptions.

C. Alleluia!

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.

Communion Hymns

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

ELW 697

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

TFF 257



1 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
2 I've got the peace that pass - es un - der - stand - ing,
3 I've got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,



down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;



I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
I've got the peace that pass - es un - der - stand - ing,
I've got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,



down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

Post Communion Blessing

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

C. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

A. 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.

C. Amen



Benediction

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

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

ELW 841

Dismissal

A. Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Marsha Vanderwerff



We say farewell to our interim music director, Marsha Vanderwerff, today. She has served us well for the past four months, so please help us honor her! Our new, permanent organist and music director, Gail Hrobuchak, is here and will officially begin next week, June 23.

OFFICIAL NOTICE: The Lord of Life congregation will meet for a special meeting on Sunday, June 23, at 11 am to review the first 100 days of Pastor Wolfgang's leadership, hear from the Visions & Dreams Team about the strategic planning and discernment process now underway, and receive the new logo and brand from the Outreach Team. All members are encouraged to attend, and friends and neighbors are invited as well.

... and a SAVE THE DATE: LOL members and friends are invited for dinner on Wednesday, July 10, starting at 5:45 pm at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 600 Walnut Street, Cary. At 6:30 pm, Rev. Daniel Pugh, CTK's senior pastor, Pastor Wolfgang and the Council presidents of our two congregations, Terry Barnes and Cameron McCall, will lead a signing ceremony for the Lord of Life/Christ the King Covenant of Collaboration that spells out the partnership between our churches during the three-year revitalization of LOL Church. A unique opportunity to celebrate together (plus a free dinner 😊); don't miss it.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Pursuant to section C10.02 of the Constitution & By-Laws of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, the Congregation Council has called a

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, June 23, 2024
11:00 AM in the sanctuary

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- **“The State of the Church”** address by Pastor Wolfgang, reviewing the first 100 days of ministry with his leadership;
- **Visions & Dreams Team Report**, Listening Campaign and Time Line;
- **Presentation of the LOL logo and brand** by the Outreach Team.

Under the Constitution, no other business can be conducted by this special congregational meeting.

Servers for Sunday, June 16th

Assisting Minister/Reader..... Sylvia Lambert
Reader Rena Bogle
Altar Guild Barbara Kyles
Greeters / Counters Linda Hash / Matt Himmeger
Acolyte Antonio Smith

Serving 
from the
Heart

Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Flowers this week
are provided by
Barbara Kyles
in honor of all Fathers
on Father's Day!

Candles this month
are given by Sylvia Lambert
in honor of her Grandchildren –
Forde, Jerri, and Ian.



Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheets are on the board in the hallway.