

“The kingdom of God  
is as if someone would  
scatter seed on the  
ground ...  
and the seed would  
sprout and grow,  
he does not know how.”

Mark 4:26-27, NRSV

## **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

June 16, 2024

9:30 AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Henrik Sonntag, Pastor

120 N. Easton Road, Glenside, PA

215-884-3005



# GATHERING

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## THE PRELUDE

*Chorale Prelude on "The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field" (Dunlap's Creek)*  
James Biery

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW Page 94

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen. OR**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

# OPENING HYMN

## No. 508 As Rain from the Clouds

*Afton Water*

WORD OF GOD

### 508

## As Rain from the Clouds

1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,  
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown,  
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,

as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.  
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.  
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.

Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow  
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow  
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow

and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.  
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.  
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.

Text: Delores Dufner, o.s.b., b. 1939  
Music: Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896; arr. hymnal version  
Text © 1983, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc.  
Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

AFTON WATER  
11 11 11 11 D

We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;  
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;  
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;

we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.  
 we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.  
 we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.

We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,  
 We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,  
 We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,

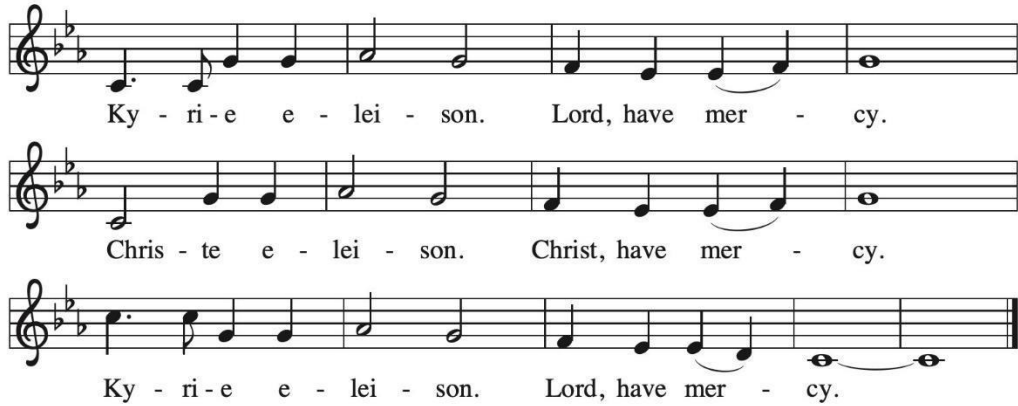
for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.  
 for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.  
 for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.

# 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.**

## KYRIE

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Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

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1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## 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.**

## THE WORD

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### THE FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

<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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



# THE PSALM

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

*The antiphon is introduced by the choir, then is sung by all. The assembly sings the verses in **bold print**.*

The right - teous shall spread a -  
broad like a ce - dar of Leb - a - non.

Psalm 92:12

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.

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- It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord,  
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;  
**to herald your love in the morning  
and your faithful-ness at night;**  
on the psaltery, and on the lyre,  
and to the melody of the harp.  
**For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord;  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands. R**  
<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. R**

## THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

6So 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. 7Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 8So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 9For 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.

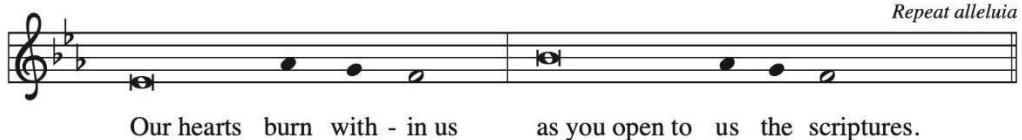
14For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. 15And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

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!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the Fourth Chapter. **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.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## SERMON

Vicar Ian Clements

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

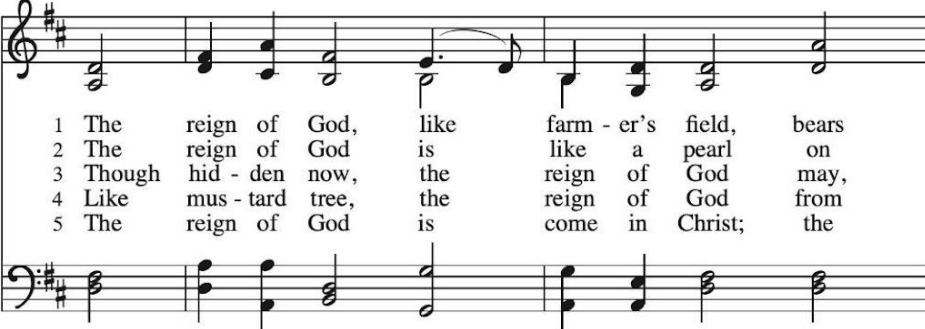
*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

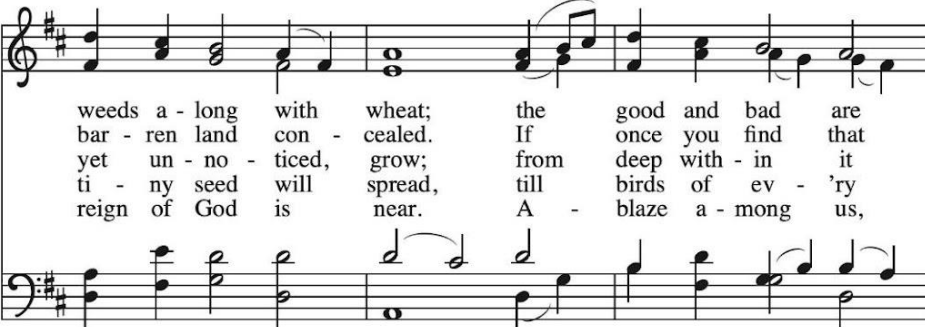
No. 952 The Reign of God, Like Farmer’s Field

*Dunlap’s Creek*

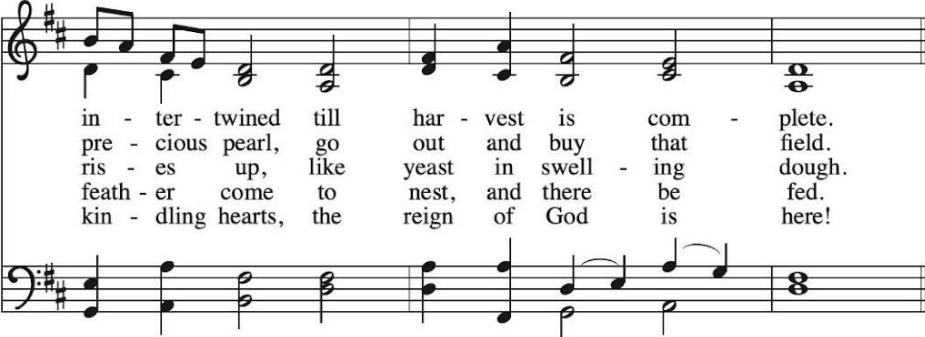
# The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears  
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on  
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,  
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from  
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are  
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that  
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it  
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry  
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.  
pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.  
ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.  
feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.  
kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. *With One Voice*, 1995

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**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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Please kneel or sit for the prayers:* This week's response is: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear 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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our elected officials as they receive our offering of letters, encouraging them to make legislation ensuring all of God's children in their constituency have enough food and safe shelters. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises, especially for all those on our list. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Lord, in your mercy, **hear 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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear 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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear 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.**

*Please stand as you are able*

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*All greet each other with Christ's gesture of peace  
saying "Peace be with you."*

*Please be seated*

## MEAL

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### OFFERING

*Song of the Mustard Seed*

Hal H. Hopson

The Summer Choir

*Please stand as you are able.*

OFFERTORY No. 692 We Are an Offering

*Offering*

We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
 of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
 lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
 all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
 We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
 we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER Concludes with...**Amen**

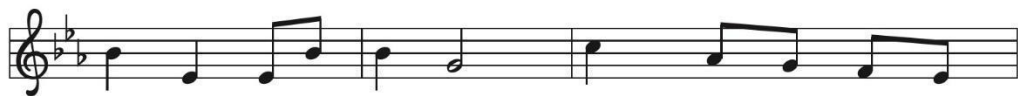
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ACS Page 36

THE SANCTUS

ACS Page 36





Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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### THE LORD'S PRAYER

ACS Page 39

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

### THE COMMUNION

“Be Known to Us”

ACS Page 40



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

No. 554 Lord, Your Hands Have Formed

*Gayom Ni Higami*

# Lord, Your Hands Have Formed



1 Lord, your hands have formed this world, ev - 'ry part is shaped by  
2 Yours the soil that holds the seed, you give warmth and mois - ture,  
3 Like a mat you roll out land, space to build for us and



you— wa - ter tum - bling o - ver rocks, air, and sun - light:  
too. Sprout-ing blos - soms, crops and buds, trees and plants: the  
you earth - ly homes and, bet - ter still, homes for Christ: the



each day's signs that you make all things new.  
sea - son's signs that you make all things new.  
tru - est sign that you make all things new.

Text: Ramon and Sario Oliano; para. James Minchin, b. 1942; tr. Delbert Rice  
Music: GAYOM NI HIGAMI, Ikalahan (Philippines) traditional  
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*Please stand as you are able.*

THE COMMUNION BLESSING Concludes with... **Amen.**

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace

ELW Page 113

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Concludes with **Amen**.

## SENDING

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THE BLESSING

ELW Page 114

THE SENDING HYMN

No. 547 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

*The Ash Grove*

## Sent Forth by God's Blessing

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

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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*Please be seated for the announcements.*

## PARISH NOTICES AND JOYS

Sending: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## THE POSTLUDE

*Trio on "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" (The Ash Grove)* David Cherwien