+ Holy Cross Lutheran Church +

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Pastor Mark Huston 903-603-5071

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

Divine Service, Setting Four

As We Gather

Once again, the Word of God in our ears this day speaks of the glorious and happy goal that God's salvation promises to all who believe in His saving mercy, grace, and love. From of old, the Lord has promised a secure future in His presence both now and especially in the eternity of life in the resurrection. Though we experience the weakness and maybe even dread of growing old, by faith we are like firm trees planted by the strength of God. That faith is the very creation of God the Holy Spirit, which grows and remains strong regardless of our circumstances. So even though we become discouraged at times, our confidence is always renewed by God as we remain steadfast in connection with His mighty Word.

500 Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid



Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **©** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit Psalm 92:12–15; antiphon: v. 1

- P It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,* to sing praises to your name, | O Most High.
- The righteous flourish like the | palm tree* and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.
- They are planted in the house of the LORD;* they flourish in the courts of our God.
- They still bear fruit in | old age;* they are ever full of | sap and green,
- to declare that the LORD is | upright;*
 he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness | in him.
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,* to sing praises to your name, | O Most High.

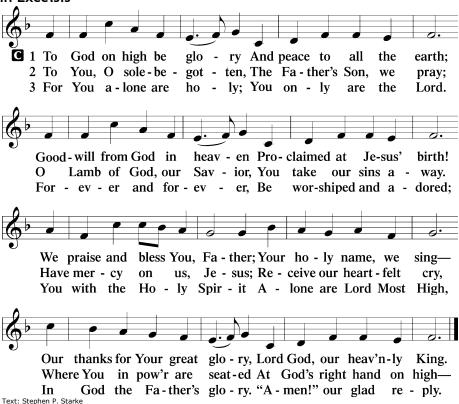
Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204



Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

R The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 17.

²²Thus says the Lord GoD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴And 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."

- **R** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

R The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapter 5.

Epistle 2 Corinthians 5:1–17

¹We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. 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 are of good courage, 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 we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is 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 controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- **R** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel Mark 4:26–34

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.
- **C** Glory to You, O Lord.
- P ²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first

the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

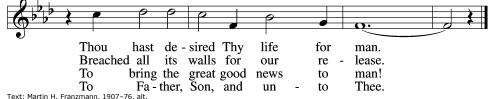
And in one Lord Jesus Christ. the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

834 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth Thy liv - ing 1 O God, 0 Lord of heav'n and earth, 2 Our fa - tal will to e - qual Thee, Our reb - el 3 Thou cam - est our hall of O Christ, to to death, ∆ 4 O Spir - it, didst Thy Church that who once re - store That life should be fin ger nev er wrote an aim will wrought death and night. We seized and used in pride To breathe our drink for dark poi-soned air, us the might The bring - er it he a - gain of good news from fu tile birth. less Α death-ward drift mote, Thy - ty. ful spite won-drous gift of lib er de spair That stran - gled our re luc - tant breath. Breathe on Thy clo Church once more, to men, ven Thy Word meant life tri - um-phant hurled splen-dor through In in this house of Where death had We housed us doom, roy -How beau - ti - ful the feet that The road that leads trod these gray and lat - ter There be may those

Thy bro-ken world. Since light a -woke and life be-gan, all scope and room. Un - til Thy ser - vant Prince of Peace

vant, Prince of Peace, al scope and room, Un - til Thy ser back God! How beau-ti-ful the feet that ran to Each life a high whose life praise, is dox - ol - o - gy



Tune: lan O Bender 1909–94

Tune: Jan O. Bender, 1909–94
Text and tune: © 1967 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Most High, we give thanks to You that You have planted Your Holy Word among us. Give healthy growth to Your Church, that she may weather the storm-winds of this world steadfast in Christ, ever bearing the fruits of love and singing praises to Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C hear our prayer.
- Lord God, Your Holy Spirit plants Your Word and causes it to sprout and grow as it pleases You. Bless the preaching and teaching of Your Word, that Your kingdom may be extended, and give us thankful hearts to marvel at Your work. Send faithful laborers into Your fields to scatter Your seed here and abroad, that in due time a harvest may be reaped for Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- P O Lord, the great I AM, what You have spoken You will surely do. We implore You for the sake of Christ and Your many precious promises to bless and defend our homes, to make the efforts of parents fruitful in the teaching of their children, and to preserve them in the saving faith of Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P God of all mercy, through the abundance of Your steadfast love You gather us into Your house and to Your Supper. Give all who commune this day a holy fear of Your wrath and faith in Your promises, that they would receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- O God, we groan under many burdens in this earthly tent and long to be clothed with Your eternal life, which will swallow up all mortal sorrow. Give good courage to Your servants [especially those who mourn the death of ______] to walk by faith and not sight, to mourn our dead in the hope of the resurrection, and to make it our aim to please You while here in the body, until at last we are at home with Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood is named, we give You thanks for earthly fathers. Give them confidence in their station and zeal for their task to care for their families faithfully. Make them examples to their children of godly life and love of Your Word. Bless their work of bringing up children in the fear and instruction of the Lord, and give them the comfort of Your absolution over all their shortcomings. Gather us together with all our fathers to Your eternal household; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

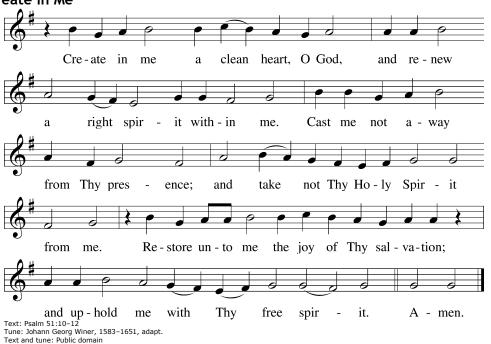
Sit

Offering

577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

Stand

956 Create in Me



Welcome to our Visitors

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

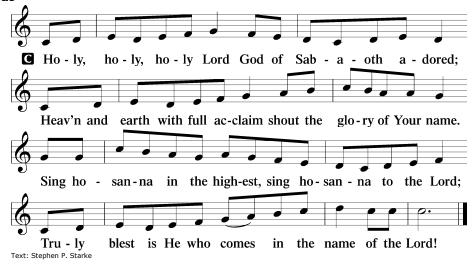
For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 208

- **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.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus LSB 208



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

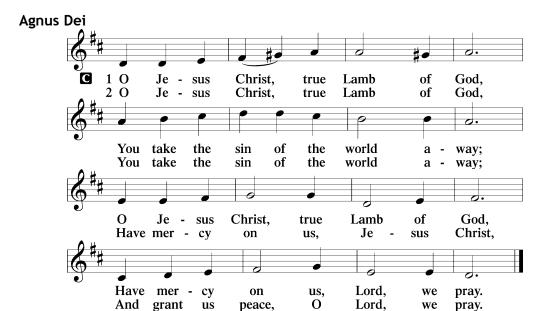
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

Text: Stephen P. Starke



LSB 210

Distribution

601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized



All who be - lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion; 2 With one ac-cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly



Bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion. Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it. Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty



Through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand A - mong the glo-rious, to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt. Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg Text and tune: Public domain



You for

and Your

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maj - es - ty

dar - ing hand

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Till

Or

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sub - tle

You are

and

Lord

for

judg - ment

craft and

par - don.

morn - ing,

cun - ning.

Al - might - y.



- 5 Though reason cannot understand,
 Yet faith this truth embraces:
 Your body, Lord, is even now
 At once in many places.
 I leave to You how this can be;
 Your Word alone suffices me;
 I trust its truth unfailing.
- 6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
 Help me when doubts assail me.
 Remember that I am but dust,
 And let my faith not fail me.
 Your supper in this vale of tears
 Refreshes me and stills my fears
 And is my priceless treasure.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603–68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841–1931, alt. Tune: Peter Sohren, c. 1630–c. 1692, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

- 7 Grant that we worthily receive
 Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
 And, truly grieving for our sins,
 May prove by our behavior
 That we are thankful for Your grace
 And day by day may run our race,
 In holiness increasing.
- 8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,
 Be praised throughout all ages!
 Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
 The world against it rages.
 Grant that this sacrament may be
 A blessèd comfort unto me
 When living and when dying.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 211



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in

fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus LSB 212

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- \mathbf{C} Thanks be to God.

Benediction

 \mathbf{P} The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

C Amen.

923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word



Announcements

Adult Sunday School at 9am on Sunday mornings is studying Numbers.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory by Becky Rosson for all fathers.

The Ladies Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 10am, studying the book of 1 Kings.

Church Council next meeting is July 14 at 8am.

June has a **Fifth Sunday** on **June 30!** Get your hymn suggestions to Pastor Huston by **23 Jun**, and join us for the potluck luncheon after service!

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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