

The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday – June 16, 2024 – 9:30 a.m. Worship

(In-Person & Live -Streamed)

Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

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† Call to Worship †

Greeting

Opening Hymn #545 "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our
4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the
Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.
world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.
pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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Please stand

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

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9 LSB 151

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23] LSB 151

P 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

P It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

C to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.

P The righteous flourish like the palm tree

C and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

P They are planted in the house of the LORD;

C they flourish in the courts of our God.

P They still bear fruit in old age;

C they are ever full of sap and green,

P to declare that the LORD is upright;

C He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

C to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



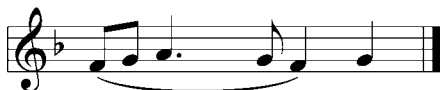
C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

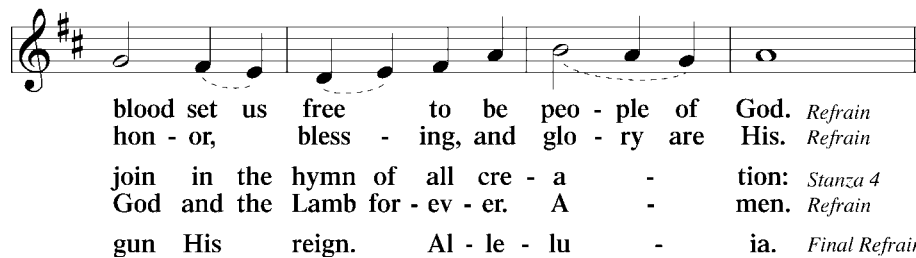
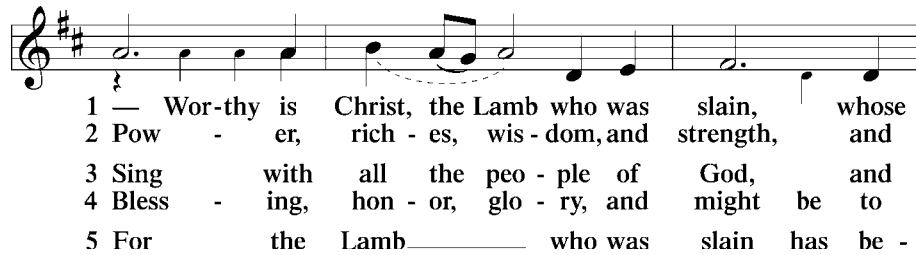
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9 LSB 155



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.

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

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.”

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

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.

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

Please stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68 LSB 156

C 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.

Holy Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

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.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon Hymn #830 "Spread the Reign of God the Lord"



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might-y Word;
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
3 Tell of our Re-deem-er's grace, Who, to save our hu-man race
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea-tures call To His heav'n-ly ban - quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel-ion's price, Gave Him-self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work-ing both to will and do.

5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!

6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774-1841; tr. composite
Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon "What Really Matters: God's Kingdom and Small Things"

Text: Mark 4:26-32

Please stand

Nicene Creed

G 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.

Offerings are brought to the LORD's altar as we sing:

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19 LSB 159

G What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
 me? I will of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

Responses:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

- P** Hear us Father for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

† Service of the Sacrament †

Please stand

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.



- C** And al - so 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 truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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



- C** 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

- 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.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** 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** A - men.

Passing of the Lord's Peace

(Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3)

As a sign of reconciliation, and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, we greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,

C "The Peace of the Lord be with you," / "God's peace to you"

Agnus Dei

John 1:29 LSB 163

C 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.

Please be seated

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
- C** Amen.

Please stand

Thanksgiving

- P** O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
- C** and His mercy endures forever.

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

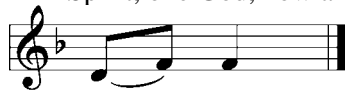


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

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.



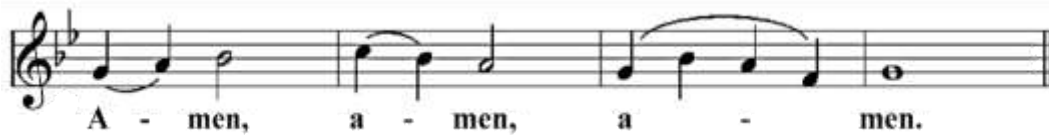
C A - men.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



Sending Hymn #643 "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 His dwell-ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.
The Sup-per is end-ed. O 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 His chil-dren of each tribe and race.
The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
U-nite us as one in this life that we share.
His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing
To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

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Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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