

Sunday Worship
Bulletin
Fourth Sunday
after
PENTECOST

10:00 a.m.

June 17, 2018



Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35



The Order of Morning Worship – Setting Four

TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this congregation is administered in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It is celebrated in the confidence that we receive into our mouths, not just bread and wine, but as our Lord promises His true Body and Blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins". If you are not a member of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we kindly ask that you arrange for a time to speak with Pastor Riley if you are interested in receiving Holy Communion.

AS WE GATHER: "Now the green blade rises from the buried grain" is the first line of a well-known Easter carol. The wonder of God's handiwork can be seen in the smallest things of God's great creation. Even in a grain of mustard seed there is the promise of new life and fruitfulness. God provides for all of our needs out of love for His creatures. And He rejoices in the growth that occurs. As the "rolling seasons in fruitful order move" (*LSB* 893:1), we celebrate that in Christ we have a central role in God's amazing plan as we grow in love.

✠ ORGAN PRELUDE

✠ OPENING HYMN No. **911**: "*Lord, This Day We've Come to Worship*"

Confession and Absolution

p. 203

Service of the Word

p. 204

Kyrie

Gloria in Excelsis

✠ PRAYER of the DAY

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.

(Be Seated)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 17:22–24 *(The Lord promises a new planting in Israel.)*
Thus 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. On 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. 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.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: 2 Corinthians 5:1–10 (11-17) (*God promises a house eternal in the heavens.*)

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For 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. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage. 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. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For 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.

Therefore, 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. We 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. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and 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.

From 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. Therefore, 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.

(Please Stand and Sing Alleluia and Verse on Page 205)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 4:26–34 (*Jesus teaches the parable of the mustard seed.*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the third chapter.

C (Sung): Glory be to You, O Lord.

And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet 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.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He 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 (Sung): Praise be to You, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: 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.

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.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY No. **733**: *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

✠ SERMON: *“Tent Living”* 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

Choir Anthem:

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

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

For the whole Church throughout the world, that as people united in faith and active in love we witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all nations of the earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule there be times of peace and reconciliation, and for our own nation that it be an ensign of hope, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our families as on this day we honor our fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers, that they be supportive of and caring toward each person, seeing Christ in them, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the varied situations of daily life in which we are placed, especially in our workplaces and neighborhoods, that we be peace-bringers in all of our actions and words, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the special needs of this day, remembering those who are ill and those who mourn and for all those matters on our hearts this day, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all those saints who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and have left us a legacy of love, let us thank the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament (p. 208)

At the time of DISTRIBUTION, all those wishing to receive Holy Communion will come forward as the ushers direct. The bread/Body of the Lord will be served in your hand. If you wish to receive the Lord's blood from an individual glass rather than from the common cup, indicate so when Pastor comes to you and he will hand you a glass from which you then drink and place back in the tray carried by the acolyte. If you are not a member of this congregation or a sister congregation within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, it is suggested that you speak to the Pastor before partaking of Holy Communion.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS No. **598**: *"Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters"*

***At the end of the Distribution we stand and continue with
the NUNC DIMITTIS on p. 211***

† CLOSING HYMN No. **923**: *"Almighty Father, Bless the Word"*

† SILENT PRAYER

† POSTLUDE

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Assisting Elders – Paul Brose & Bill

Schneeloch

Acolyte – Alex Provost

Lay Reader – Bill Schneeloch

Music Director – Jeff Windoloski

Altar Care – Jane McClure

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Marilyn Johnson from her husband, Roy.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ezekiel 17:22–24, 2 Corinthians 5:1–10 , Mark 4:26–34

The Cross of Christ Is the Tree of Life, Which Bears Abundant Fruit after Its Own Kind

The parables of our Lord convey the mysteries of the kingdom of God to those who are *“able to hear it,”* that is, *“to His own disciples,”* who are catechized to fear, love and trust in Him by faith (Mark 4:33–34). He scatters *“seed on the ground,”* which *“sprouts and grows”* unto life, even as *“he sleeps and rises”* (Mark 4:26–27). *“On the mountain height of Israel,”* He plants a young and tender twig, and it becomes *“a noble cedar.”* Indeed, His own cross becomes the Tree of Life, under which *“every kind of bird”* will dwell, and in which *“birds of every sort will nest”* (Ezekiel 17:22–25). His cross is our resting place, even while now in mortal bodies, we *“groan, being burdened”* (2 Corinthians 5:1–4). Yet in faith, we live for God in Christ, Who for our sake *“died and was raised”* (2 Corinthians 5:15). We know that, in His resurrected body, *“we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”* (2 Corinthians 5:1).