



The birds  
of the air  
make nests in  
its shade

MARK 4:32

Worship Program  
June 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Lectionary 11

## Introduction

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.

## Confession & Forgiveness

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**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.**

## 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.**

## Gathering Hymn "Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace" Hymn

716



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all  
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,  
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less  
4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er  
5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I  
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -  
act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I  
strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim  
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.  
sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.  
do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.  
be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.  
be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

## Prayer of the Day

P: 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.**    *\*Please be seated.*

## 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).*

WA: 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. 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. 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. **C:Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

WA: It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, O Most High.

**C: To herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.**

WA: On the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

**C: For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD. And I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

WA: The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

**C: Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.**

WA: They shall still bear fruit in old age. They shall be green and succulent.

**C: That they may show how upright the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

*(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).*

WA: So 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. Yes, we do have confidence, 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 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. Therefore, 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.

We 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.

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 urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all. Therefore all have died.

And 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. From 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. So 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. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

**"Alleluia"** (Setting 3, ELW pg.142)

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

Gospel: 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).*

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?"

It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth. 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.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*\*Please be seated.*

Sermon Gary Mickle



# Hymn of the Day "Christ, Be Our Light" Hymn 715

*\*Please stand if you are able.*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.



## Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

P: We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

P: You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

P: Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises (*especially*). Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain.

Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

P: 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.

Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

P: 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.

Merciful God, **C: Receive our prayer.**

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.**

### Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

### Offertory Song

**"We are an Offering"** Hymn 692

### Offering Prayer

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

P: 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 Dialogue

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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”** (Setting Three, ELW pg.144)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes**

**in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

**C: Amen.**

## The 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

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

*\*Please be seated.*

**"Lamb of God"** (Setting Three, ELW pg.146)

## Special Music

"You've Always Been" Performed by Unspoken

## Prayer after Communion

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

P: 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.**

## Blessing

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 "For the Fruits of All Creation" Hymn 679



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Readers/Communion Assistants

June 15 Dave Klavuhn

June 16 VR Reader

June 22 Kevin Oleksa

June 23 Kevin Oleksa

June 29 **\*\*Help Wanted\*\***

June 30 Ray Leverknight

## Ushers

June 15 Joan Bunnell & Janis Daily

June 16,23,30 **\*\* Help Wanted\*\***

June 22 Pat Bittner & Linda Barnhart

June 29 Joan Bunnell & Janis Daily

Altar Guild June - Cindy & Sara Solarczyk

## Worship Leader Schedule

June 15/16 Gary Mickle

June 22/23 Rt. Rev. Dr. McLaughlin- Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal  
Missionary Church & Bishop of the East

June 29/30 Gary Mickle