

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 16, 2024



Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

“Celebrating and sharing God’s Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others”

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Bold type indicates Congregational responses.

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.

Prelude

Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

***Greeting**

P: 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.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**


**Turn us again to you,
and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

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.

****Hymn of Praise***



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:
we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.

****Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

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.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

L: 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

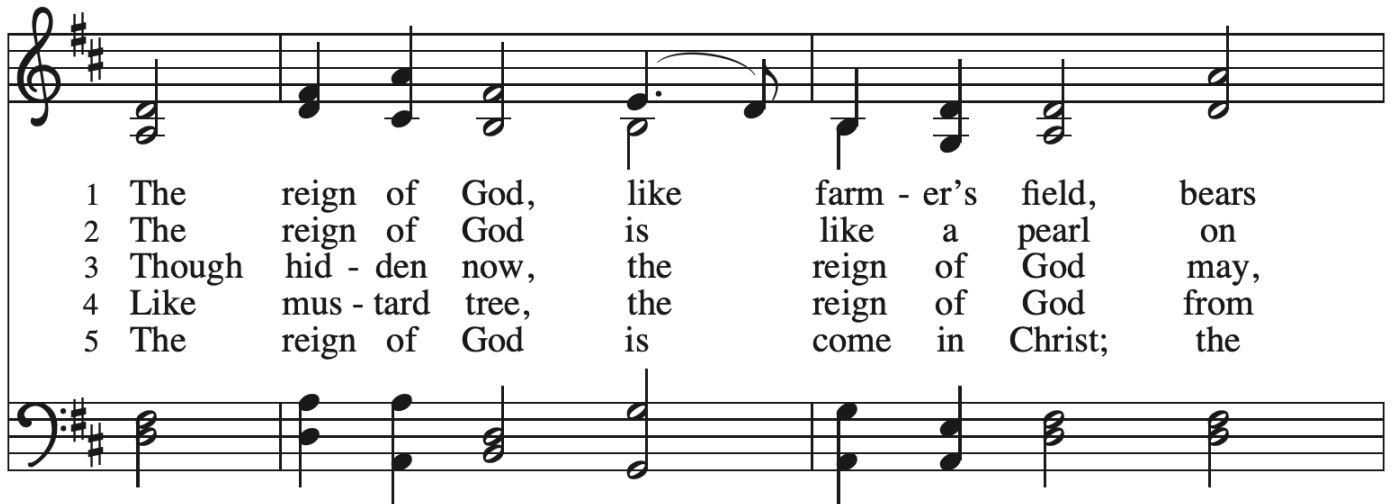
Psalm: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

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 faithfulness 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.**
The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
**Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**
they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;
**that they may show how upright the Lord is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

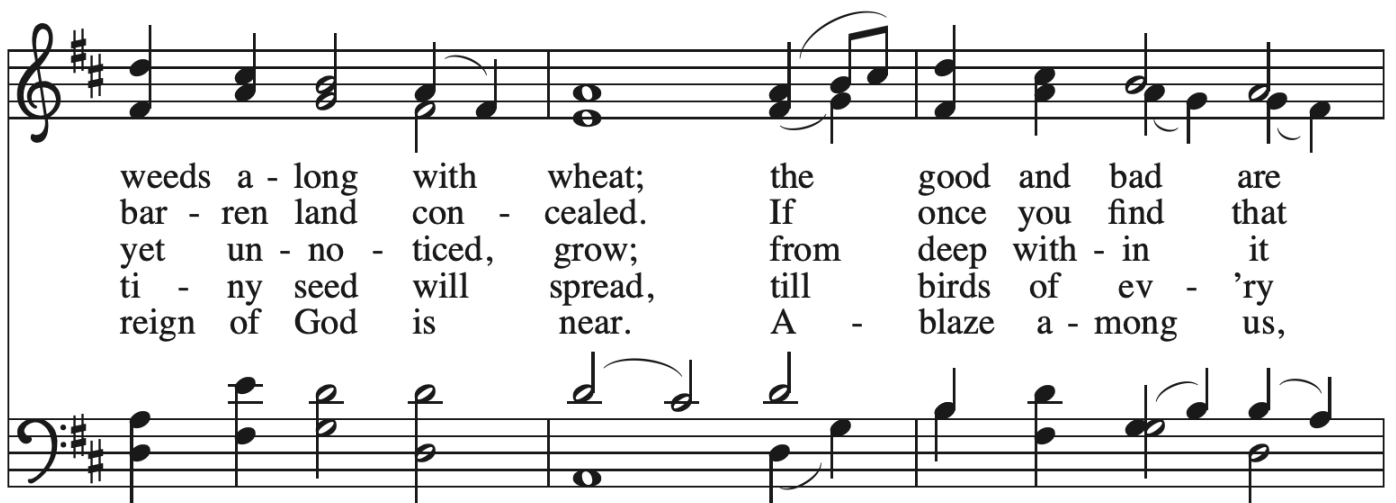
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: "The Reign of God" ACS 952



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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Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Holy Baptism for Isabella Nicole Dowd and Elaine Maire Dowd

Presentation (from ELW, pg. 227)

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidates:

P: Who presents these children for the sacrament of baptism?

*Sponsors respond: **We present Isabella Nicole and Elaine Maire for baptism.***

P: *Elaine Maire*, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ today?

*Elaine respond: **I do.***

P: Parents, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

*Parents respond: **We do.***

P: Parents, as you bring *your children* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *them* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,
so that *they* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *them* grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents respond: **We do.***

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Elaine and Isabella* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *them* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Sponsors respond: **We do.***

P: People of God, do you promise to support *Isabella and Elaine* and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

Assembly responds: **We do.**

(All are asked to respond to following questions.)

Profession of Faith

P: Now I ask all of you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at The Font

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism of Elaine Maire and Isabella Nicole

P: _____, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(Prayer shawl given to both, laying on of hands by pastor)

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Isabella and Elaine* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

(Newly baptized are anointed with oil in the sign of the cross)

_____, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

L: Jesus said, let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ
and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative
and redeeming word to all the world.**

P: Now let our applause be a sign of our warm welcome to these new siblings in Christ who have become the newest members into our community here at Lord of Love.

(Applause, and giving of gifts...)

***Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share signs of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

***Prayers of Intercession**

L: 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. Merciful God,
receive 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. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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,
receive our prayer.

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. We especially pray for those on our prayer list and the names of those we lift up to you in our heart now... Merciful God,
receive 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. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With gratitude, we remember all 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,
receive 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.

Offering

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or given electronically at www.lord-of-love.org. Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar during this song.

Communion servers, please come forward during the offertory song.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un-to me the

joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

****Offertory Prayer***

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

****The Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

****Words of Institution***

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.

****The Lord's Prayer***

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Communion Invitation

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, all are welcome.

Lamb of God

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, grant us peace.

Communion

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P: O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***Benediction**

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Song: "Build Us Up, Lord" ELW 670**

***Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

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