

June 13, 2021 Third Sunday after Pentecost

# Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Building up God's people through His word for His world

## Third Sunday after Pentecost June 13, 2021

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.

**Flowers and plants in our sanctuary** are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the chancel (area around the altar) uplift the service participants, and remind us all of God's good creation. This week, the flowers are sponsored by the Linda and Rob Fekete in celebration of the birthday of their son Robi.

PRELUDE "Sonata Pathetique, 2nd Movement" Ludwig van Beethoven

WELCOME Pastor James



and

end

less

sight.

With full

You

as

are,

## INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, 

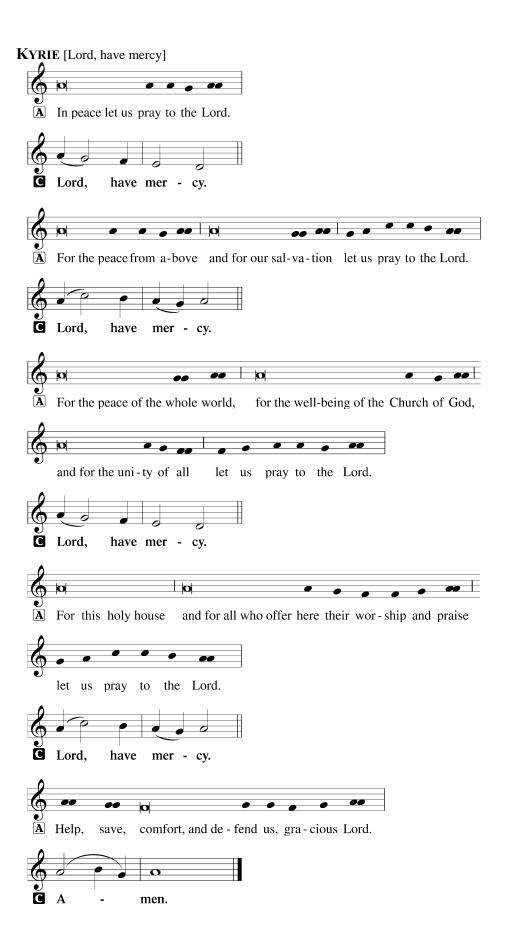
  → one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
- C Amen.
- P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination. Please kneel/stand.)

- **P** God our provider,
- 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.

(Please stand)





(Please sit)

#### Service of the Word

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.

**L** <sup>22</sup>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.

<sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>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.

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

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:6–17

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.

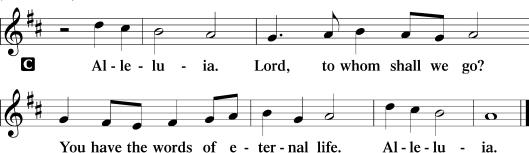
6So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—7for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10For 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.

<sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

(Please stand)



HOLY GOSPEL Mark 4:26–34

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.
- **C** Glory to You, O Lord.

**Spoken** 

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.

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>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."

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

**Spoken** 

(Please sit)

#### KIDS' MESSAGE

Susie Hardwick Preschool Director



**ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

## CHORAL ANTHEM "The Church, Arise, Our Christ" arr. Robert W. Thygerson

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord
She is his new creation
By water and the word

From Heav'n he came and sought her

To be his holy bride

With his own blood he brought her

And for her life he died.

Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things Give heart and mind and soul and strength

To serve the King of Kings.

Mid toil and tribulation And tumult of her war She waits the consummation Of peace for evermore. Till, with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Soldiers of Christ arise And put your armor on

Strong in the strength which God

supplies

Through his eternal Son.
Strong in the Lord of hosts
And in his mighty power

Who in the strength of Jesus trusts

Is more than conqueror.

Soldiers of Christ arise Soldiers of the Lord Soldiers of Christ arise. Rise Up, O men of God!

(Please stand)

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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. Amen.

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say "Lord, in your mercy," The congregation responds "hear our prayer."

## LORD'S PRAYER

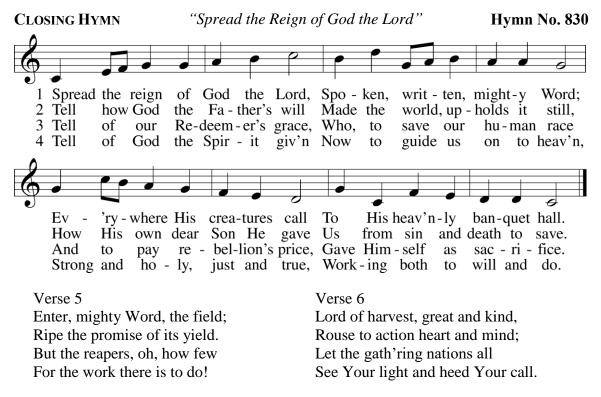
**C** Our Father who art in heaven,

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.

#### **BLESSING**

- P The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, 

  → be upon you now and forever.
- C Amen.



#### DISMISSAL

- **P** Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Shine, Jesus, Shine" Graham Kendrick
+ + + +

Note: Please join us for coffee fellowship following the service.

We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following our Instagram account. Find them by searching @gslcva within those social media platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more! If you have any questions, please reach out to <a href="mailto:grace@gslcva.org">grace@gslcva.org</a>.

Worship Leader & Preacher	Pastor James
Director of Music	Nemeh Azzam
Pianist	Tatiana Loisha
Singers	Emma Gorin
	Jessica Hodges
	Ted Lillestolen
	John Linn
	Geoff Lunt
	Bob Millman
	Brendan Rau
Worship Materials Support	Jeff Donahue
	Pastor Johann
	Jeannie Johns
Greeter	Kelly Nield
Reader	Melinda DeWan
Usher	Mike DeWan
	Jim Micsan
	Goodwyn Morgan
	Jeff Peterson
Building Closer	Pastor James

<sup>\* =</sup> worship assistant needed

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Matt Hardy, Video Productions Specialist

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#### **BOARD OF SERVANT LEADERS**

Vicki Peter, Chair June McGurn, Vice-Chair Kathy Eickelberg, Secretary Allen Hodges Leta Kent Ted Lillestolen John Stoothoff

### **CORE MINISTRY AREAS**

**Worship** Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide;

Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir (Laura Owens), traditional, contemporary, physical space, support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes)

**Discipleship** Team Leader: Andy Muich

adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, family ministry, children's ministry, youth ministry

Parish Life Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

Life Groups (Brian Cors), member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion (Melinda DeWan), concerts, public events, picnics, intergenerational events

**Administration** Team Leader: Pastor Johann

property (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Franker), communications, contracts, church office, calendar/program management, technology

Mission Team Leader: Vacant; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

world missions, synod, outreach, social ministry, community service, evangelism, publicity, media, social media

Congregational Care Team Leader: Marilyn Voigt; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann member care visits, emergency transportation, maintain roster of the willing, guest follow-up

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

# **About Good Shepherd...**

#### Our vision

We will be a congregation known for building up God's people through His Word for His world.

## Worship

During worship, God comes to us through his gifts of Word and Sacrament. What a joy to respond with prayer and songs of praise. Our worship services give us opportunity to listen to God's word and meditate upon it, thus feeding our faith; and express our concerns for our friends, families, community, and the world through prayer.

#### Serve

We are called to actively share the Good News of Jesus Christ through word and deed. One way we share is by serving one another and our neighbors in our community and throughout the world. Look at our Community Service Opportunities listing to find a way to serve.

#### Grow

We are committed to spiritual growth through the weekly gathering for prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, and through lifelong learning. In addition to growing in knowledge, we want to grow in love and service to others within and beyond our church community.

#### Connect

As we grow in our love for Jesus and our neighbors, as we serve our neighbors near and far, we help and encourage one another, challenge one another, and share one another's joys and sorrows. We build strong ties when we gather for worship as well as for events throughout the week. Look inside for many opportunities for connection.



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