



Sunday, June 13, 2021  
8:00, 9:15 and 10:30 am

Third Week After Pentecost  
Ezekiel 17:22-24  
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15  
2 Corinthians 5:6-17  
Mark 4:26-34

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

GATHERING HYMN

*"Glory to God"*

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

## WORD

A reading from Ezekiel.

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

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love in the morning  
and your faithfulness at night;**

<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and on the lyre,  
and to the melody of the harp.

<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit in old age;  
they shall be green and succulent;

<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how upright the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

A reading from Second Corinthians.

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!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

*"We Walk by Faith"*

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, Let us confess our faith...

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The response is:*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

GREAT THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN

*"Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word"*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Serving in Worship***

Pr. Justin Smoot  
Joel Freiberg - Pianist  
Shirley Bickford - Layreader  
Michelle Tlusty - Vocalist  
Al Freiberg - Vocalist

***Technical Support***

Patrick Kieper  
Travis Puig  
Joel Freiberg  
Bob Wiederhoeft

***Altar Flowers***

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in memory of Glen Schilling by his family; and by Rick and Suzanne Schroeder in honor of Ozkar's birthday.

***Thank you for your offerings and continued support!***

Now more than ever we are grateful for a gift of any amount you might share to further support the ministry of Saint Andrew. What you share makes a difference as we seek to be "open to all". For the many ways you give, thank you.

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JUNE 13, 2021  
THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*The reign of God will not be stopped.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 4:26-34</b>	<b>Parables of Jesus</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 17:22-24</b>	<b>Israel to return from exile</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Corinthians 5:6-17</b>	<b>Living by faith</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalms 107:4-22</b>	<b>Thanksgiving for deliverance</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Acts 5:27-42</b>	<b>The apostles are persecuted</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Zachariah 8:1-17</b>	<b>God's promises to Zion</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15</b>	<b>A song for the sabbath day</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 4:35-41</b>	<b>Jesus calms the sea</b>

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"[The kingdom of God] 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."* **Mark 4:31-32 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, in Christ Jesus we thank you that by day and by night your reign of steadfast love and faithfulness will not be stopped. (Psalm 92:1-2)

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Nurturing God, for the seed that becomes the plant that supplies the food that shows your love, we give you thanks. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the steadfast love and faithfulness of God bless you now and always. (Psalm 92:2)



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JUNE 13, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*As Rain from the Clouds*



## WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Describe your experience with gardening and planting seeds.
- Think or talk about a time you have seen an act of kindness make a big difference in someone's life.
- Jesus describes the reign of God through images of tiny seeds and growth. In what way is this a message about God's kingdom?

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Mark 4:26-34.

With Jesus' depiction of the kingdom of God, one would expect comparisons to something like spectacular cedar trees of Lebanon (Ezekiel 17:22 and Psalm 92:12) or some other vision of grandeur. Jesus chooses something more akin to a weed, a mustard bush that is prolific in Judea. It's an example that likely made his hearers chuckle, not gasp with indescribable awe; it's another example of getting people to see differently. Just as relentless as mustard bushes or weeds are, God's reign will not be deterred. It is like the seed planted that grows and grows without human intervention. As the Gospel of Mark gets underway, the message is that the kingdom is coming. The kingdom is viewed through surprising, even humorous comparisons. It will not be stopped, not by evil, not by scribes, not by disciples who fail again and again. Evil will be overcome, voices of the kingdom will be heard, and imperfect followers will keep pointing to Christ's victory over sin and death. How do you help others see the kingdom of God more clearly?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, help us to see and believe with the eyes of faith that your reign will win the day through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SERVICE

The smallest of seeds planted can become the largest of plants. Likewise, the smallest acts of kindness can grow to make a very large difference in someone's life. Think of someone who is not so visible or lonely and reach out to them. In what way does reaching out to them grow the kingdom of God?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Use a leafless branch and cut out leaf shapes. During devotion time this week, think or talk about ways you have seen and felt God at work in the world. Write down those ways on leaves and add them to the branch. Praise and thank God each time you add leaves by praying: **Dear God, we thank you for caring for us. May your presence in our lives help us to continue to grow and care for others, even in ways we may not see or understand. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)