

**Christ Lutheran Church &
The Bridge Campus Ministry
June 13, 2021 – Third Sunday after Pentecost**



Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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Introduction to the day

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.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

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.

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.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Bring Peace to Earth Again (ELW 700)*



- 1 Where ar - mies scourge the coun-try-side, and peo - ple flee in fear,
- 2 Where an - ger fes - ters in the heart, and strikes with cru - el hand;
- 3 Where homes are torn by bit - ter strife, and love dis - solves in blame;
- 4 O God, whose heart com-pas-sion-ate bears ev - 'ry hu - man pain,



where si - rens scream through flam - ing nights, and death is ev - er near:
where vio - lence stalks the trou - bled streets, and ter - ror haunts the land:
where walls you meant for shel - t'ring care hide deeds of hurt and shame:
re - deem this vio - lent, wound-ing world till gen - tle - ness shall reign.



O God of mer - cy, hear our prayer: bring peace to earth a - gain!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
Music: PACE MIO DIO, Perry Nelson, b. 1955
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GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from Ezekiel.

²²Thus 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.
²³On 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.
²⁴All 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.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

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.

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

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷So 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: Mark 4:26-34

The holy 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,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

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

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

The gospel of the Lord.

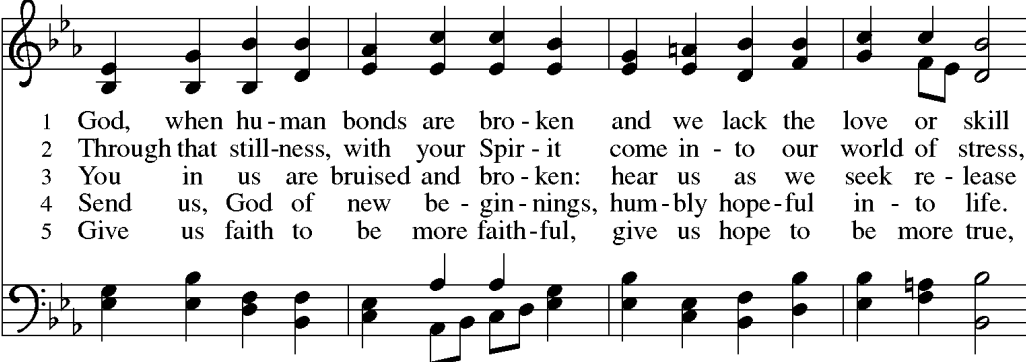
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken (ELW 603)



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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CREED

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

On this national day of recognizing fathers, we give our thanks to God, for the fathers in our lives. Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail. We ask for Your blessings for them all and forgiveness where it is needed.

Let us pray for our nation and for all the nations of the world, and all of their leaders. Guide them in the ways of justice and peace that they may serve the common good. We pray for economic and social equity and the prospect of a life of peace and dignity for all people.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Give us a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources wisely.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who hunger, those who thirst, those who cry out for justice, those who live under the threat of terror and those without a place to lay their head.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill, those in pain, those under stress, those who grieve and those who are lonely. Give them courage and hope and let us see Christ in them and surround them with our love and care.
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We remember and pray for all those who have helped fill the void when fathers die early, or are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches and the women of our families.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died and who have entered into the land of eternal light. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Hear now the prayers we offer either silently or aloud...

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.

In Your Holy name, O God, we pray.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.'

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING 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.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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.
You reveal your glory
as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:
equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God,
ever to be adored in your eternal glory.
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 (ELW p. 207)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a whole note, the second with a half note, the third with a half note, and the fourth with a half note. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.
When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.
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.
Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

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

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS COFFEE HOUR TODAY AT 11:30, ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 27!

BLESSING

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (ELW 545)

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,
let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.
Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

A Prayer for Refugees

Merciful God, protect the women, men, and children who have fled, those who are in transit, and those who must stay. Send angels who will surround them and protect them on the road you have laid before them. God who is near, help us remember those who will go to sleep hungry and afraid, strangers in a foreign land, and those who not have a place to call home. Just as you never left your Son Jesus, be close to those who are desperately seeking relief from

oppression, persecution, violence, and war. God of justice and equality, awaken in us voices of courage to stand for welcome. Give us a spirit of selflessness to speak your word and to be true advocates of welcome. Compassionate God, help us to see you in everyone around us, especially those who come to us in need. Open our hearts to give with generosity, to serve with joy, and to act with compassion. God of refuge, may your people find safe harbor here. In your great mercy, Lord hear our prayer. **Amen**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

What is a Refugee?

Refugees are children, women, and men who have been forced to flee the only home they have ever known due to war, violence, conflict, or persecution and who are urgently awaiting a safe and stable home through the resettlement process. After fleeing their home country, refugees can spend months and even years in temporary camps or overpopulated urban areas. Basic necessities such as food, housing, medical care, and education are scarce. Women are especially vulnerable in both camps and urban areas. Without access to schools or employment, refugees spend their days waiting for life to begin again...or wondering if it ever will. A very small number of refugees (less than one percent) will ever go through the refugee resettlement process to come to the United States. More importantly, refugees are our neighbors—sons, daughters, parents, families, and friends who deserve the same protection that we would want for our own loved ones. A very small number of refugees go through the refugee resettlement process to come to the United States.

The Resettlement Process

When the threat of persecution becomes too strong, individuals and families must flee their home country to seek safety elsewhere. They must cross an international border and seek safety in the “country of first asylum.” Once in another country, they must register with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNHCR collects biometric data, biographic information, and identifying documents and conducts interviews to determine whether or not someone qualifies for refugee status. If UNHCR verifies a need for protection, individuals will receive an ID card that allows them to stay in a refugee camp or urban environment. If they are not able to return home or settle in the country to which they fled, individuals and families may apply for resettlement in a third country, such as the US. If referred to resettlement in the US, there are extensive screenings, multiple reviews of the application, and an interview with a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officer, who then is responsible for approving or denying the application for resettlement. If all necessary criteria are met, individuals or families will be conditionally approved for refugee status. They must pass another round of security screenings, which includes passing a medical screening, before coming to the United States.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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