



THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 13, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

✝ GATHERING ✝

OPENING HYMN *This Is My Father's World*



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
 morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.
 rus-tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'-ry-where.
 Lord is king, let the heav-ens ring; God reigns, let the earth be glad!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

P. Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P. Loving God,

C. we confess that we have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to worship You with our whole being and to share the abundance of grace You give us. We have acted out of selfish ambition rather than the interests of others; we have nursed grudges rather than seeking reconciliation and peace. Forgive us and renew in us the mind of Christ Jesus, that we may live according to Your will. **Amen.**

P. Since we are justified by faith . . . the Holy Spirit.

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.**

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 Lord.

C. **Amen.**

† 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.

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.

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.

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130

The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
²to tell of Your lovingkindness early in the morning
and of Your faithfulness in the night season;

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

⁴For You have made me glad by Your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of Your hands.

¹¹The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹²Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;

¹³they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁴that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no fault.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6–10, 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.

So 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.

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!

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 34:26–34

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.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and 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.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

For the Fruit of All Creation



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.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord.

He 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, and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

Trusting the Spirit's power, let us pray for the Church, and the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, You plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven Your church, so that the good news of Your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in Your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

God of wisdom, You provide for all nations and peoples. We pray for governments and international organizations, for all who shelter refugees and strive for peace and justice. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Bring the abundant healing blessings of the new creation into the lives of those who suffer illness or deprivation of any kind. We pray especially for Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Bill & Karen, Bill Ningen, Carol, Sylvia, and Norma. We pray also for the family and friends of Sylvia Pridal who are grieving her death. Strengthen and renew us with Your Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

Faithful God, You prosper the work of our hands. Use us to reach out to those in need of love and care and encourage us to share the faith You give us. We trust Your Spirit moving through and among us even when we do not see the fruits of our labors. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we give thanks for all the saints who are now at home with You, especially Jim and Sylvia Pridal. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in Your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

By the sure guidance of Your Holy Spirit, O God, we life up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

OFFERING / Offertory



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 dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

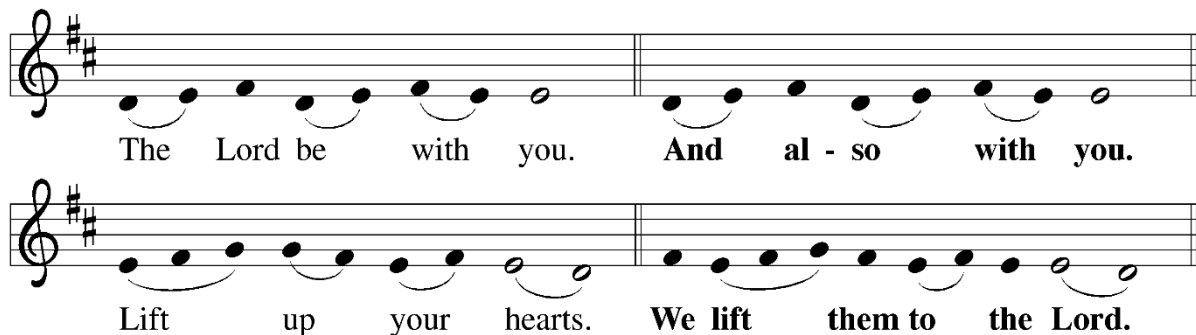
OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Blessed are you,

C. 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.

† MEAL †

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. You are indeed holy ... accomplished our salvation.

C. Amen.

P. In the night in ... the Lord's death until He comes.

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. Send now Your Holy Spirit ... both now and forever.

C. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P. The Body and Blood . . . keep you in His grace.

C. Amen

POST-COMMUNION SONG

☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Jesus Christ, You have given . . . Lord forevermore.

C. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

P. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in His love.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word

1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord;
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;

tell how his own Son he gave, all from sin and death to save.
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
let the gath - 'ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

THOSE WHO SERVE:

Ministers: All the People of God

Musician: Lou Knutson

Camera: Josh Sumption

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

Reader: Linda Bruns

Projection: James Kamrath/Kendon Knutson
Katie Munter

Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason and Jerome Bruns

How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658

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Bethel web page: www.bethelofporter.com



Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson
Shirlee Gabbert, Bill and Karen Pohlen
Bill Ningen, Carol Moon, Norma Dovre

The Family and Friends of Sylvia Pridal



The funeral service for Jim and Sylvia Pridal will be at **10:30 am on Monday, June 14th at Living Word Lutheran Church** in Marshall, MN. Visitation will be at Living Word on Sunday, June 13th, from 4-7 pm with a prayer service at 6:30 pm.

Living Word Lutheran Church's address is 800 E Southview Court. The location is one block from HyVee.

June 6, 2021

General: \$1,409.50 (\$779.50 received through eGiving)