



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 16, 2024

9:30 AM



Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Avenue SW
Great Falls, MT 59404
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A congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.

As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

LH 507

Father I Adore You

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

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.

KYRIE

Chicago Folk Mercy On This Fallen World

R. *Have mercy on this fallen world. Have mercy on us. Have mercy on this fallen world, mercy Lord have mercy on us..*

*1. For all of the days that have fallen apart, have mercy.
For every life, for every heart, have mercy.
For all those who hunger each day, have mercy.
For all of the times that we turn away. R.*

*2. For all who have fears that come with the night, have mercy.
For all those who need to be held in the light, have mercy.
For all of creation through famine or feast, have mercy.
For all of the world to live in your peace.R.*

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

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.

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 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.**

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—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.

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

Chicago Folk LH 102

Sing praise to the Lord, all the earth! Alleluia, Alleluia!
Play music to praise God's name. Alleluia, Alleluia!

The holy gospel according to Mark the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MARK 4:26-34

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.

[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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Dave Scholten, LPA

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 732 Borning Cry

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we 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 THE CHURCH
Merciful God, receive our prayer.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Chicago Road Create In Me LH 106

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your spirit free. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Chicago Folk LH 107 Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of Hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord most high. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosannah in the highest..

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.

LAMB OF GOD

Chicago Folk LH 109

Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, give us your peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

BOB 189 Renew Me
BOB 65 Give Thanks
BOB 88 Here is Bread

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING HYMN

W&P 124 Shout to The Lord

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

And all God's children said: **Amen.**

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist	Mary Seim, piano;
Lay Assistant	Stephanie Cummings
Usher	Sandy Pepos
Tech	Gabe Smith
Projection	TBD
Children's Church	Addi Carlson and Tyler Grosenick

Hospitality

Sandy Pepos

Counters

Pam Dougherty and Jeanne Rankin

Flowers are given by Patty Braget in memory of Cindy Doughty on the anniversary of her entry into heaven.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate the **4th Sunday after Pentecost**.

We welcome and thank **Dave Scholten, LPA** presiding in worship this morning. Dave has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

Happy Father's Day to all the men in our lives who guide us, care for us, protect us, and love us.

No **Adult Forum** today.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 6/18

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

Friday 6/21

- Bethel office is closed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 6/23

- Joint Worship service with Redeemer Lutheran Church led by Pastor Sara Branom in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- Handbell choir

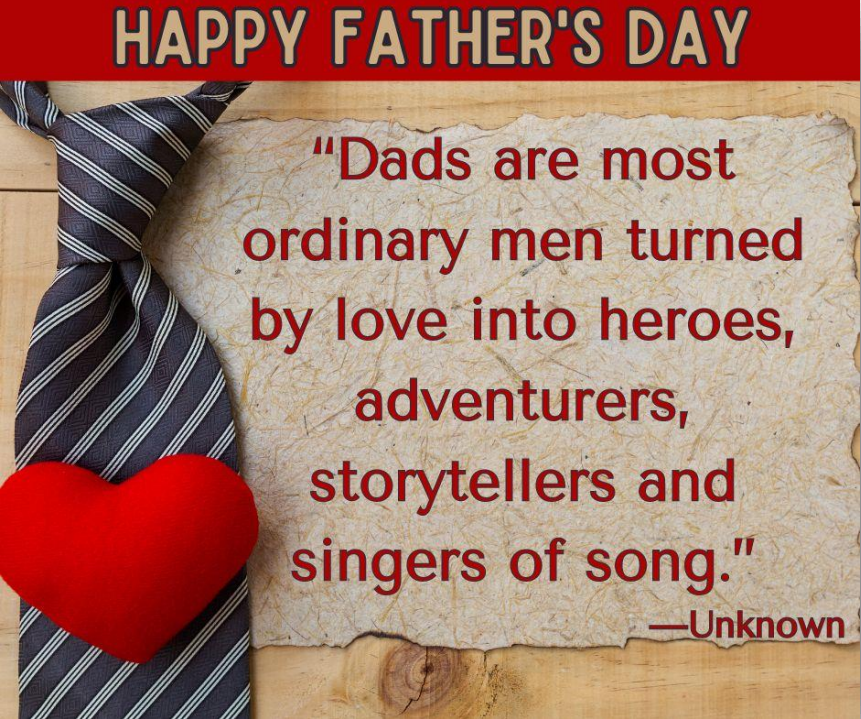
Tuesday 6/25

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Friday 6/28

- Bethel office is closed.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



"Dads are most
ordinary men turned
by love into heroes,
adventurers,
storytellers and
singers of song."

—Unknown

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Worship Songs: Bornin Cry used with permission under One License #A704354. Father
I Adore You and Shout To the Lord used with permission under CCLI #556986.

