



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 16, 2024, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Erik Rundquist

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community.”

Welcome to Worship this morning!

To receive Holy Communion, you may come to the front and receive the bread and wine or grape juice, you may ask an usher to have the pastor bring the elements to you in the pew, or you may pick up the cup/wafer in the narthex before the service and commune yourself at your seat.

Reminder: We are videoing “live.”

Please sign the pew pad and pass down the aisle. Thank You.

Augsburg Fortress Hymn License SBT003486/ CCLI-Copyright License # 1961276 & Streaming Plus License #20937714



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.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Candles and Ringing of the Bell

Hymn

“Morning Has Broken”

Red Worship Book# 556

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning, God's recreation of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

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Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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 is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: 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.

Prayer of the Day

L: 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.

C: Amen.

First Lesson

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Linda Libra

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.

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

Linda Libra

L: It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

**C: to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night;**

P: on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

**C: For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

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

**C: Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

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

**C: that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

Romans 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17

Linda Libra

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!

Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia.....”

Red Worship Book pg. 142

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

C: Glory to you, O Lord (Spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 143

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

²⁶[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.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord

Red Worship Book pg. 143

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Erik Rundquist

Sermon

Pastor Erik Rundquist

Hymn of Day “For the Fruit of All Creation”

Red Worship Book# 679

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For these gifts to ev’ry nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labor, God's will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done. In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Nicene Creed

Red Worship Book pg. 104

Prayers of Intercession

P: We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

P: Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises (*especially*). Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: With gratitude, we remember (*the Emanuel Nine martyrs and all*) the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering/Song

“We Are an Offering”

Red Worship Book# 692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

Music: Dwight Liles

Text and music ©

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Red Worship Book pg. 144

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Red Worship Book pg. 144

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 145

Distribution of Holy Communion

*This is the gift of God for all people without exception of faith tradition or age.
We provide gluten free bread and grape juice at your request.*

Communion Hymn

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Red Worship Book #752

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

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Communion Hymn

“Change My Heart, O God”

Red Worship Book# 801

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you. You are the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God; make it ever true
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953

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Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: 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.

Hymn

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

Red Worship #172

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

the worship is ended ... let the service begin...



Announcements for June 16th

****The Noisy offering for the month of June is for
Pastor's Discretionary Fund****



Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~ family of Jon Youngblom, Karen Johnson, Vernon Zehms (brother of Joyce Seegebarth), Allie, Mya and Morgan (daughter and grand babies of Rebecca Wizek), Richard Holmberg (brother of Sue Skalicky), Bob Kinblom, Tom Williams (brother of Robin Hendrix), David Shober, Larry Edin, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Lana Jensen, and Judy Smith.

**For Health Care Workers, Firefighters, EMT's, Policemen & women,
and the military. For all those who serve to protect.**

For world peace. For our companion synods.

For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship with BP checks; 9:30 am Worship; Church Council after Worship.

Mon. JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Mon.-Fri. Camp Connect Day Camp at Luther Point.

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study.

Wed. 5-8 pm Pool Party at RV Park for grades 7th and up.

Thurs. 7 am Men's Coffee; 7:30 am Men's Text Study; meet at church 11 am to carpool to Out to Lunch Bunch-Keziah Kitchen in Pine City; Foodstand at Westside Park Sounds of Summer-Amy & Jamie Johnson for Mission Trip.

Sat. 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship.