

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 6

June 13, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

Though much is made of the smallness of the mustard seed, the focus of Jesus is on outcome—the plant that becomes large enough to give nest and shade to all the birds of the air. The kingdom of God seems small and even irrelevant in the face of large problems, challenges, and problems of this mortal life, and yet it is the kingdom of God that is great. God gives to us the forgiveness that makes a clear conscience, the life that is stronger than death, and the joy that is greater than every joy this world can deliver. In this way, the small seed makes for a great plant, large enough for us to find refuge and a home in its shade. How the kingdom of God grows may seem part of the mystery, but we know that it is a seed planted in the good soil and fed and nourished by God's grace to the day when the harvest delivers us into His presence forevermore.

PRELUDE “Give Thanks To The Lord” - Talbot

OPENING HYMN “Almighty God Your Word is Cast” LSB 577

- 1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.
- 2 Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.
- 3 Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.
- 4 So when the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 1:5–6. Our confession and absolution today recall our Psalm.*

Pastor: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

People: for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father. Holy and gracious God,

People: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and

lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Praise To The Lord, The Almighty” LSB 790

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen
All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief
Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do
As with His love He befriends you.
- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 17:22–24* (The Lord promises to plant a sprig and make it grow, that it may be a noble tree and bear good fruit.) Thus says the Lord God: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 1*

Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:1–17* (We walk by faith and not by sight.)

We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. 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 are of good courage, 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 we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is 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 controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Peter 3:18a*

Pastor: Alleluia. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

People: Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 4:26–34* (The kingdom of God is like a seed.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out 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 without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Son Of God Eternal Savior" LSB 842

- 1 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory,
For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity,
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
- 2 As You, Lord, have lived for others,
So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted;
Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.
- 3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion,
Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling,
By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
Stem our selfish greed of gain.
- 4 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing
That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:
Here on earth Your will be done.

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SERMON “Camping”

- I. Camping
 - What three metaphors does Paul use to describe our lives?
- II. Groaning
 - Why do we ultimately groan? What causes it?
 - What does Paul remind us of?
- III. The Dwelling
 - What won’t be able to topple the dwelling?
- IV. The Down Payment
 - What is the guarantee?
 - What does help do?
- V. Gospel Change
 - How does this promise change things?
 - Our view on the body, life, and possessions?
 - Work?
 - What is the Christian life?
 - What is one of the meanings for “vocation”?

Are there any campers in the room? I went camping for the first time a few years ago, and it was a pleasant experience. I’m sure that being in Minnesota that most people have camped before in some way, shape, or form. If I can’t ask that here, I’m not sure I could ask that anywhere!

There is something special about camping, isn’t there? There is something about sleeping on the ground and being in the thick of God’s creation, isn’t there? There is something peaceful about hearing the gentle forest breeze, seeing the delicate morning dew, or feeling the night’s coolness on your skin. There is something unique about the time it gives us with our loved ones. It is a welcomed change of pace and a different kind of quality time that we don’t always get at home. There is also the excitement of different: it is unlike our home and breaks the mundaneness of everyday life. Camping can be quite fun...for awhile, right?

Could you camp permanently? That would be a challenge, wouldn’t it? Sleeping on rocky or uneven ground night after night could get old quickly. The buzzing bugs and menacing mosquitos would be a nuisance (I swell up after bug bites). The lack of quality protection from the elements can be unpleasant and unforgiving. Tents aren’t perfect at keeping out the rain. They aren’t known for their durability in wind, and tents aren’t great at temperature control. Living in a tent this last week would be miserable! So would living in one six months from now when the temperature is below zero and there is snow all around. Could you live without modern amenities long term, like running water, a toilet, refrigerator, washing machine, electricity, or internet? All of this would certainly be a challenge.

The Apostle Paul talks about our present life as camping in a tent. This tent metaphor is quite appropriate coming from Paul given his trade: he was a tent-maker according to the book of Acts. In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul uses three metaphors to describe our life, and the hope we have in Christ. He uses the metaphor of living in a tent, wearing soiled “camping clothes”, which is a body corrupted by sin, and being away from home on a trip.

Paul says that we live in a tent that is temporary, impermanent, and flimsy. In this tent life we groan, not because of the wet sleeping bag, damp clothes, mosquito bites, or hot weather. We groan because of sin and its consequences. Our lives are burdened by personal problems, some of which *we have caused*, some of which *others have caused*, and others which have just happened. Our lives are burdened by family tensions, whether it be disagreement, misunderstanding, or jealousy. Our lives are burdened by spiritual exhaustion: it isn’t easy being a Christian!

So often at this time of year we hear people say, “I need a vacation,” “I need to get away from it all,” or “I need some time off.” I’m sure we hear more things like this after the last year, especially since COVID canceled peoples’ plans last summer. Places are booked, and then some! A room at a hotel we went to in March cost \$80. On the same day of the week in June? \$500! People want to get away. Life can be challenging and tiring. Maybe you had a trying week at work because of a boss, or are dealing with a sickness

in the family. Maybe a concern about a friend has been dominating your mind all week. On the flipside, perhaps you had such a joyful weekend with games, pleasures, and fun that you need to go back to work to get some rest. Such is living in tents with groans and sighs.

Paul reminds us, though, that one day we will take down the tent. We will be given a house that is permanent, not made with human hands. We will receive one made by God's hands. To use Paul's other two metaphors, we will take off our soiled outdoor clothes, our sin corrupted body, and we will spend eternity permanently dressed only in the clean garment provided by Jesus, a resurrection body like his own. It is a body that is free from death, disease, aging, aches, pain, and suffering. We will return from our camping trip to remain at home forever, and this dwelling is a gift from God.

God provides this dwelling, this permanent home through Jesus. God made our mansion from the wood of the cross, nailed it together with the spikes from Jesus' hand and feet, and unlocked the door for us with the same key He used to open Jesus' tomb on Easter morning. We have a house in which we will live by God's grace and mercy.

In the Gospels, Jesus Himself spoke of His body as a temple. The earthly Jerusalem temple, one made by human hands, was torn down in 70 A. D., never to be rebuilt. But Jesus' resurrection body is a temple that will endure forever. Likewise, even though our earthly bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, one day they will be torn down and replaced with eternal resurrected temples.

Remember the old story of the three little pigs? One built his house with straw and the wolf blew it down. Another built his house with wood, and the wolf blew that one down, too. One built his house with solid bricks, and the wolf couldn't blow that one down. That is the kind of immovable house that God will give us. Our house will not fall or blow away, even though the devil might say, "I will huff and I will puff, and I will blow this house down." Death cannot knock it over. Sin won't be able to topple it. Problems and worries won't be able to compromise the structure. Christ has defeated them all through His death and resurrection, and we have victory in Him.

God wills to give this mansion to us. His promise is so certain that Paul says, "*we have*" the new building, already. Why is Paul so confident? It is because Jesus entered our flimsy, cold, wet shelter when He became flesh so that He could provide us with our eternal dwelling. It is a wonderful future, isn't it? However, can't it be hard to grasp? Our gaze and sight can be distracted, shifted, or averted. It can be hard to look ahead when so many things burden us here and now, things that are also important to us, and that need solving or fixing.

God knows that, and He knows that we need help. What does He do? He gives us a down payment, earnest money, to guarantee what is to come (Great Wolf or Mario Kart Story). That guarantee is the Spirit, the One Who connects us to Jesus' death and Jesus' life. His Spirit created a new life in us at our baptism, and now stays with us as God's down payment, the guarantee that He will finalize His promise.

The Spirit helps us as we groan in this tent. He strengthens us in God's Word, and solidifies our hope when things look bleak and lost. He guides us when the path is dark and uncertain, and we don't know what to do, or where to go. He gives voice to our prayers, helping us to pray when the words escape us, and when nothing seems to come to mind. He calms our hearts with the peace of Jesus, the peace that surpasses all understanding that will guard our hearts and minds in Him. The Spirit is a guarantee. We will really inherit a permanent, heavenly home. The Spirit guarantees it!

And this gift, this promise, changes our lives here. What a different lifestyle is ours now because we know that this life, for all its pleasures and its problems, is still only life in a tent. We have a different view about our bodies, our houses, and our possessions, knowing that we are only camping, here. That doesn't mean that what we do doesn't matter; it certainly does. We aren't fatalistic. It doesn't mean that we don't care for our bodies since we are getting new ones (that would be a gnostic heresy); our bodies are a gift and temple of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't mean that we live for ourselves, or for our pleasure (that would be hedonism, which we see a lot of in our age). It means that we see these things differently, and in the right place, and order. One day, our tent will be dismantled. We will leave the camping equipment behind and go home. Something better is in store. Wait until you see the treasures that ours in Jesus. For now, they are hidden from our view. We walk by faith, not by sight, Paul says, trusting God's promises.

Because this tent is only that, a tent, and because of that, we have a different view of our work, and whom we are working for. Paul says, "**So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please**

Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” The Christian life is not a matter of rules and regulations. It is a joyful response to the Gospel that frees and gives life, a response that says, “Here I am Lord, send me, send me.” Our goal in life is to please our Lord. Our vocations are opportunities He has given us to serve Him. One of the meanings of the word “Vocation” means “station.” Where has God stationed you? Is it as a mother or father? Son or daughter (to an elderly parent)? Neighbor? Office worker? Mechanic? Lawyer? Soldier? Where has God placed you to serve Him and those around you? Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit to use to glorify Him. And as Paul says, we will all one day appear before the judge’s bench in God’s court, where every action, every word, every thought will be evaluated. Jesus has already secured for us the verdict, “Not guilty! Forgiven!”

There is an old saying, “All trips must come to an end.” Ours will one day come to an end, but we know what comes next: home!

CONFIRMATION

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”

You have been baptized and you have been taught the faith according to our Lord’s bidding. The fulfillment of his bidding we now celebrate with thankful hearts, rejoicing to confess the faith into which you were baptized and which you yourselves will now confess before the Church.

Jesus said: “Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess him before my Father in heaven. But he that denies me before men, I will deny him before my Father in Heaven.” Lift up your hearts therefore to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what, in the name of the Lord, as a minister of his Church, I now shall ask you. Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

Confirmands: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

Confirmands: I do.

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Confirmands: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

Confirmands: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmands: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Pastor: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

Confirmands: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

Confirmands: I do.

Pastor: Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord’s Supper faithfully?

Confirmands: I do, by the grace of God.

Pastor: Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

Confirmands: I do, by the grace of God.

Pastor: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Confirmands: I do, by the grace of God.

Pastor: We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Give then your hand as pledge of your promise, and kneel to receive the blessing.

(The catechumens, in turn, give their right hand and kneel. The pastor lays his hands upon the head of each one and gives the following blessing. A confirmation text is then given to each.)

_____, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

After all catechumens have received the blessing and text of Holy Scripture, the pastor says:

Upon this your profession and promise I invite and welcome you, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation, to share with us in all the gifts our Lord has for his Church and to live them out continually in his worship and service.

Pastor: Let us pray for the newly confirmed. Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for your great goodness in bringing these, your children, to the knowledge of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them with both heart to believe and with mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and most merciful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

Congregation: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy holy holy Lord
God of power and might
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes
In the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Lord of heaven and earth, we praise and thank You for having had mercy on those whom You created, sending Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sins and be our Savior. With the joy of repentant hearts, we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and in remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Therefore, O Lord, our God, we rejoice to stand before You and serve You as Your own people by Baptism and faith. Redeemed through the blood of the Lamb and set apart to be Your own and to live under You in Your Kingdom forevermore, we come before You this day in thanks and praise, for Your goodness is without end and Your mercy endures forever. Give to Your Church unity of faith, and preserve us in the bond of love. Grant that none whom You have chosen be lost and that all may come to the knowledge of Your Son, to live in Him by faith. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, in union with the Holy Spirit, now and forevermore.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God you take away
All the sin of the world
Oh Lamb of God have mercy on us
And grant to us your peace

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "How Great Thou Art" LSB 801

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; Refrain

ref Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain

3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" Refrain

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BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, we have approached the mystery of Your presence this day, having heard Your voice in Your Word and having communed upon the blessed body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that we may live within this blessed mystery, trusting not in what our eyes see or the works of our hands or what our minds comprehend, but only in Your Son, Jesus Christ, and in the salvation He has accomplished for us. Keep us in this holy faith and fear all our days until the veil is lifted and we behold You face-to-face; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Spread The Reign Of God The Lord” LSB 830

- 1 Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev’rywhere His creatures call
To His heav’nly banquet hall.
- 2 Tell how God the Father’s will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave
Us from sin and death to save.
- 3 Tell of our Redeemer’s grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion’s price,
Gave Himself as sacrifice.
- 4 Tell of God the Spirit giv’n
Now to guide us on to heav’n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.
- 5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!
- 6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath’ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.

Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE “Tell The World” - Card

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Mark 4:34 – “He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.”* How blessed we are to be His disciples! The Lord has indeed explained everything to us. He has told us all things plainly. Why then are we ever so foolish as to disobey His clear Word? Our fight against sin in the power of the Holy Spirit is truly a struggle. Therefore, let us receive the Lord’s help in His Word and Sacraments, and let us fight the good fight of faith and grow up into His image.

EMMAUS GENERATIONS will gather Thursday, June 17th at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. Our theme will be Thanksgiving. We hope to see you there!

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

JUNE 13TH is the date of our next congregational meeting. This meeting will take place immediately after our service. There will be a presentation updating the status of the rain garden, voting on our boards and officers for the next year, as well as other items of interest. We hope to see you there.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Clearly Christian: Spiritual” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God is above all, but that doesn’t mean material “stuff” is somehow beneath Him. Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the unique nature of Christian spirituality. (Genesis 1:31)