

4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 13 & 16, 2024

From the Tiniest Seed Grows the Largest Kingdom Usually, a kingdom advances and is secured through things like military might or political force or worldly wealth. It can be tempting to believe the same holds true in the kingdom of God. Perhaps we think churches would flourish if we had the right rulers passing and enforcing the right laws. Or we believe that for a church to do good requires a robust budget. Political force. Worldly wealth. This way of thinking is breathtakingly wrong.

We need God to give us the top-down faith that grasps the fact that kingdom of God advances in ways that are imperceptible. Through something that seems insignificant to most—the gospel—the King of kings establishes his reign in human hearts. Even Jesus himself taught that the gospel seems unimpressive, for he often compared the gospel to a tiny seed. Yet within a seed is hidden life. As the seed of the gospel is planted, the largest of all kingdoms grows.

Opening Hymn: *Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid* CW 188



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's
2 O Source of light, our Coun - sel - or, The Fa -
3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high In an -
4 Im - mor - tal hon - or, end - less fame, At - tend



foun - da - tions first were laid, Come, vis - it
ther's help to us as - sure. Come down, as
swer to our ear - nest cry. Help us e -
th' al - might - y Fa - ther's name; The Sav - ior -



ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come, pour your joys on
prom - ised, with your fire, And hearts with heav'n - ly
ter - nal truths re - ceive And prac - tice all that
Son be glo - ri - fied, Who for all hu - man -



hu - man - kind. From sin and sor - row set us
love in - spire. Your sa - cred, heal - ing mes - sage
we be - lieve. Give us your wis - dom that we
kind has died; And e - qual ad - o - ra - tion



free; May we your liv - ing tem - ples be.
bring To sanc - ti - fy us when we sing.
see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.
rise To you, O Spir - it, in the skies.



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we
Gather
around the Gospel
to help people
Grow
in the Gospel
and
Go
with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

Text: attr. Rhabanus Maurus, 776–856, abr.; tr. John Dryden, 1631–1700, alt.

Tune: ALL EHR UND LOB (88 88 88) *Gesangbuch . . . Psalmen, Geistliche Lieder*, Strassburg, 1541, alt.

Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins, Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

Absolution (pronouncement of forgiveness)

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -

ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -

ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -

ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

First Lesson

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Through the prophet Ezekiel, the LORD promised that the kingdom of God would grow large and strong and provide safety and shelter for God’s people.

²² “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. ²⁴ All the trees of the forest will know that I the Lord bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

“I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it.” (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 1 CW



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.



Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*
or stand in the way of sinners.

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,
which yields its fruit in season*
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment*,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous*,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning*,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Robert J. Thompson. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson

Colossians 1:3-8

We thank God that the seed of the gospel is producing fruit throughout the whole world.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia. (Psalm 132:9)

Stand

Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

The kingdom grows when the seed is sown. The Word works.

²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

³⁰ Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. (NIV)

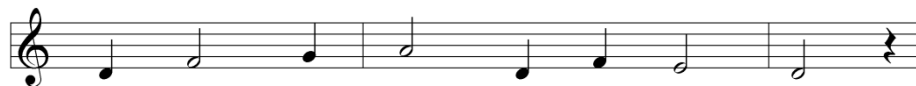
M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

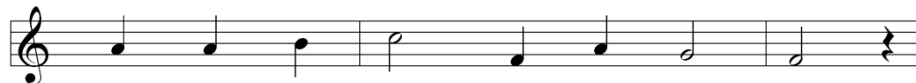
Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

Preach You the Word CW 544



1 Preach you the Word and plant it home
2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task
3 The sow - er sows; his reck - less love
4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched
5 Preach you the Word and plant it home



To those who like or like it not,
Your ser - vant bids us un - der - take:
Scat - ters a - broad the good - ly seed,
And some be choked and mat - ted flat,
And nev - er faint; the Har - vest - Lord



The Word that shall en - dure and stand
To preach your Word and nev - er ask
In - tent a - lone that there may be
The sow - er sows; his heart cries out,
Who gave the sow - er seed to sow



When flow'rs and mor - tals are for - got.
What pride - ful prof - it it may make.
The whole - some loaves that peo - ple need.
"Oh, what of that, and what of that?"
Will watch and tend his plant - ed Word.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, alt. © 1971 Peter Franzmann. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF (LM) *Rheinfelssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch*, Augsburg, 1666.

Sermon

Mark 2:23–3:6

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
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. Amen.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer of the Church

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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast CW 324



1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast Like
2 Let not the foe of Christ and man This
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
4 When - e'er the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a
giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And right - eous fruits a - bound.
ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.
truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, abr., alt.
Tune: DUNDEE (CM) *The CL Psalms of David*, Edinburgh, 1615.