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**Sunday, June 16, 2024**

**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

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Service Theme

**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.

## 644 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



- 1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the foe of Christ and man this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 When - e'er the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow



now let the dew of heav'n de-scend and right-eous fruits a - bound.  
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
but let it yield a hun-dred-fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, abr., alt.  
Tune: The CL Psalmes of David, Edinburgh, 1615  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Service *Setting One (p.154)*

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Confession**

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts,  
words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;  
I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.  
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins  
with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a  
sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

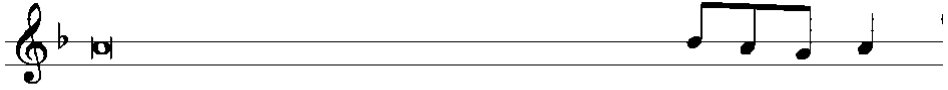
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# Lord, Have Mercy



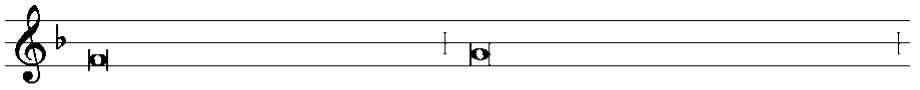
In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



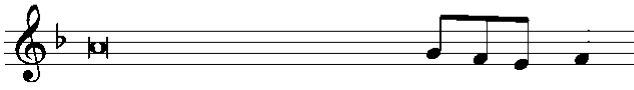
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



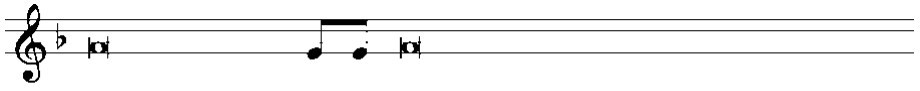
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



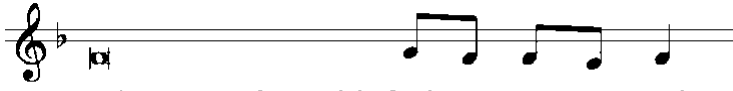
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

Tune: Kevin Becker

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# Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



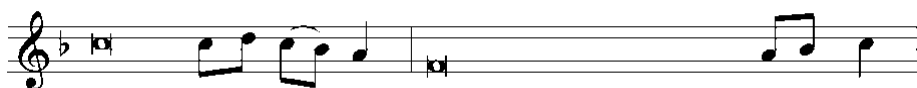
Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



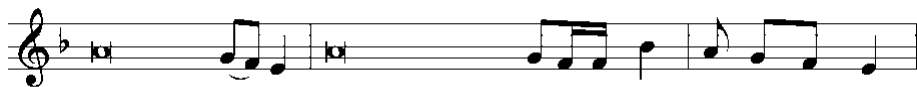
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al-mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



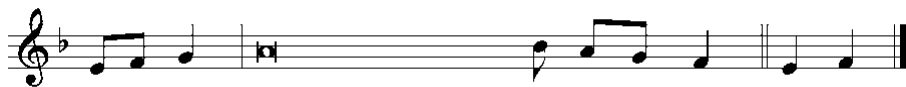
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

### 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.*

<sup>22</sup>This is what the LORD God says. I myself will take part of the tip of the cedar and plant it. From the topmost of its shoots I will pluck off a tender sprig, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it. It will produce branches, bear fruit, and become a magnificent cedar. Flying birds of every kind will live under it. In the shelter of its branches they will nest.

<sup>24</sup>Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, the LORD, bring down the high tree and raise up the low tree, that I make the green tree dry up, and I make the dried-up tree blossom. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will carry it out.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 1B How Truly Blest Are They

Psalm 1B



1 How tru - ly blest are they who shun the  
2 But make the law of God their stud - y  
3 They like a tree shall thrive with wa - ters  
4 The wick - ed are not so! They no such



sin - ners' ways, a - mong their coun - sels  
and de - light a - mid the la - bors  
near the root. Fresh as the leaf their  
bless - ing find. Their hopes shall flee like



nev - er stand, nor take the scorn - ers' place,  
of the day and watch - es of the night.  
name shall live; their works are heav'n - ly fruit.  
emp - ty chaff be - fore the driv - ing wind.

- 5 How will they bear to stand  
before that judgment seat  
where all the saints at Christ's right hand  
in full assembly meet?
- 6 God knows and he approves  
the way the righteous go,  
but sinners and their works shall meet  
a dreadful overthrow.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.  
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Reading

Colossians 1:3–8

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

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints <sup>5</sup>because of the hope that is stored up for you in heaven.

You have already heard about this in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that is present with you now. The gospel is bearing fruit and growing in the entire world, just as it also has been doing among you from the day you heard it and came to know the grace of God in truth. <sup>7</sup>You learned this from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf. <sup>8</sup>He is the one who told us about your love in the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

Mark 4:26–34

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

<sup>26</sup>He said, “The kingdom of God is like this: A man scatters seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and while he sleeps and rises, night and day, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The ground produces fruit on its own: first the blade, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>When the crop is ready, he swings the sickle without delay, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>Then he said, “To what should we compare the kingdom of God? Or with what parable may we picture it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which when sown on the ground is one of the smallest of all the seeds planted in the ground. <sup>32</sup>Yet when it is planted, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches so that the birds of the sky can nest under its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many similar parables he continued to speak the word to them, as much as they were able to hear. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*



## 859 Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure



1 Your king-dom, O God, is my glo - ri - ous trea - sure, my  
 2 Your king-dom, O God, is a - live with the pow - er your  
 3 Your king-dom, O God, is a field for the grow - ing of



pearl of in - com - p'ra - ble worth. Its val - ue ex -  
 Word and your Spir - it be - stow. Like yeast, they af -  
 seeds that your mer - cy has sown; but still in our



ceeds ev - 'ry stand - ard of mea - sure, sur - pass - ing the  
 fact the whole mea - sure of flour, en - a - bling your  
 midst is the en - e - my sow - ing the weeds that im -



wealth of the earth. Lord, give me your grace and the  
 king-dom to grow. Em - pow - er me, Lord, as I  
 per - il your own. Sus - tain me, O Lord, till your



pow'r of the Spir - it to val - ue this trea - sure a -  
 live your com - mis - sion, though hum - ble my ser - vice may  
 day of re - turn - ing and har - vest me home - ward at



right that, nev - er al - lured by the world, I in -  
 be, and bring ev - 'ry plant - ing to per - fect fru -  
 last, to shine in the home - land that qui - ets all



her - it your king - dom of glo - ry and light.  
 i - tion, a mus - tard seed grown to a tree.  
 yearn - ing, where sor - row and dan - ger are past.

Text: David W. Rogner, b. 1960

Tune: Joseph Herl, b. 1959

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## **Sermon - Mark 4:26-29**

**Be a farmer of God's Word!**

- 1) Sow the seed.
- 2) Let it grow.
- 3) Marvel at the miracle God performs!

*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*

## **Prayer of the Church**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition*]. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [*especially . . . here name the person*]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

### **Father's Day**

Heavenly Father, bless all earthly fathers as they seek to fulfill the calling you have entrusted to them. Give them loving hearts and sound judgment to exercise godly family leadership. Help them to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. In loving Christian fathers, may children see reflections of you, the Father whose love for us is perfect and complete; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Offering**

# The Sacrament

Stand

## Preface

CW 165



The Lord be with you.



**And al - so with you.**



Lift up your hearts.



**We lift them up to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

# Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,  
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

# O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - - - - - men.

*Be seated*

## Distribution

*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



# Blessing

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 T give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 981 In This Place Your Word Is Planted

CW 981



1 In this place your Word is plant - ed; on our  
 2 Let your plant - ing not be wast - ed, wilt - ed  
 3 Help us trea - sure ho - ly wis - dom, sa - vor  
 4 Blest are they who, truth re - ceiv - ing, know its



path the seed is sown. To the Church your  
 soon in ston - y field. Let our world - ly  
 ev - 'ry word you give. Help us cher - ish  
 val - ue more than gold. Blest are they who,



Word is spo - ken; in our hearts a light has shone.  
 cares not choke it, rob - bing you of right - ful yield.  
 Je - sus' gos - pel, bread by which your peo - ple live.  
 per - se - ver - ing, bear good fruit a hun - dred - fold.

Text: Delores Dufner, b. 1939

Tune: Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716

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## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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## **Announcements**

### ***Church Cleaners:***

June 23 - Simon // June 30 – Matthew

### **Church Picnic**

It's Summer! Do you have any big plans? Time in the pool? Vacations? Extra time with friends? And of course coming to the church Picnic on August 11th, right? There are two specific ways you can become involved in the planning of the picnic. 1) We would like some original works of art based on Bible stories. Talk to Laura for more details. 2) Everyone is encouraged to prayerfully consider inviting a friend to the picnic. In the following weeks we will discuss more about "Friendship Evangelism" and give you resources to help. Stay tuned

## DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

**Su (16) 9:30 am Worship (with Communion)**  
**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**

Tu (18) 7:00 pm Elders Meeting

We (19) 5:30 pm "Test the Spirits" Bible Info class

Th (20) 6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (21) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study  
4:30 pm Youth Confirmation (D)

**Su (23) 9:30 am Worship (with Communion)**  
**10:45 am Voters Meeting**

*International Youth Rally July 24-29th*

**Su (30) 9:30 am Lay-led Worship**



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