



**June 16, 2024**

**4th Sunday after Pentecost  
Service of Holy Communion**

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.

## **+GATHERING+**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.  
(\*indicates all are invited to stand as able)*

### **WELCOME**

### **PRELUDE**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

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

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.**

**GATHERING HYMN    What Is This Place                      ELW 524**

- 1    What is this place where we are meeting?  
     Only a house, the earth its floor.  
     Walls and a roof sheltering people,  
     windows for light, an open door.  
     Yet it becomes a body that lives  
     when we are gathered here,  
     and know our God is near.
  
- 2    Words from afar, stars that are falling,  
     sparks that are sown in us like seed:  
     names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders  
     sent from the past are all we need.  
     We in this place remember and speak  
     again what we have heard:  
     God's free redeeming word.
  
- 3    And we accept bread at this table,  
     broken and shared, a living sign.

Here in this world, dying and living,  
 we are each other's bread and wine.  
 This is the place where we can receive  
 what we need to increase:  
 our justice and God's peace.

## **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.**

## **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**

## **+WORD+**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## **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.*

A reading from **Ezekiel**

<sup>22</sup>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.  
<sup>23</sup>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.  
<sup>24</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.     **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM            Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15     (Read responsively by verse)**

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,  
 to sing praise to your name, O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love in the morning  
 and your faithfulness at night;**  
<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and on the lyre,  
 and to the melody of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;  
 and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**  
<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,  
 and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.  
<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD**

**shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit in old age;  
they shall be green and succulent;

<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how upright the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

## **SECOND READING      2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 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.*

A reading from Second Corinthians.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>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.

[<sup>11</sup>Therefore, 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. <sup>12</sup>We 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. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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**

**ELW 175**

*We all sing*

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Welcome with meekness the im- | planted word\* that has the power to | save your souls. *Repeat Alleluia.*

**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*

The holy gospel according to Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>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."

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>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.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY **God of The Fertile Fields ACS 1063**

- 1 God of the fertile fields,  
 shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:  
 forth from your bounteous hand  
 come gifts your love has planned,  
 that all in ev'ry land  
 be clothed and fed.
- 2 We would be stewards true,  
 holding in trust from you all that you give;



help us in love to share,  
 teach us like you to care  
 for people ev'rywhere,  
 that all may live.

3 As grows the hidden seed  
 to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.  
 Let all our toil be used,  
 no gift of yours abused,  
 no humble task refused  
 your love bestows.

4 God of the countryside,  
 dear to the Christ who died to make us one:  
 we pledge our lives anew  
 in faithful love to you.  
 Guide all we say and do.  
 Your will be done.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

**A** 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, **receive our prayer.**

**A** 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, **receive our prayer.**

**A** 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, **receive our prayer.**

**A** Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises, especially Freda, Lori, Nancy, Charlie, Patricia, Nancy, Lee, Denise, Larry, Bob, Joan, Ann, Pamela, Bill, Donna,

Marge, Vincent, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Tracey, Johanna, Carole, John, Todd, Anna, Roy, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain.

(Pause for silence)

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** 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, **receive our prayer.**

**A** Guide and nurture our Lutheran congregations in Bristol and Plainville as we continue charting and discovering pathways of joining together in proclaiming your Good News and building a servant community of healing, hope and new life. Open our hearts and minds to visions of your church for a new day.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**A** 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, **receive our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

## **SHARE THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**+MEAL+**

*God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING** *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN God Extends An Invitation ELW 486**

**God Extends an Invitation**  
*Nuestro Padre nos invita*



*Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la*  
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -



*vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -*  
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we



*so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -*  
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the



*sí es la co - mu - nión; pues a - sí es la co - mu - nión.*  
feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

Text: Miria T. Kolling; English and Spanish tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923  
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**OFFERING 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

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### PREFACE

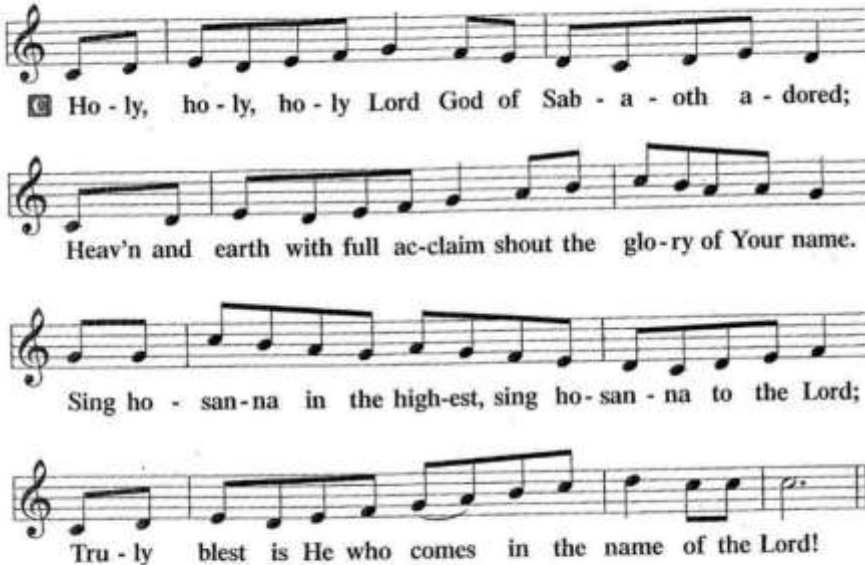
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
 that we should at all times and in all places  
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
 through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

SANCTUS *~ Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

*Sabaoth (SAH-bay-outh) is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts."  
Hosanna is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now."*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God,  
you alone are holy,  
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars;  
beneath the sea;  
within each cell;

with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:  
 through the water;  
 by night and day;  
 across the wilderness;  
 out of exile;  
 into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
 at the heart of human life;  
 near to those who suffer;  
 beside the sinner;  
 among the poor;  
 with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread,  
 and gave thanks; broke it,  
 and gave it to his disciples,  
 saying: Take and eat;  
 this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,  
 he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink,  
 saying: This cup  
 is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people  
 for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.



Remembering his love for us  
on the way,  
at the table,  
and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering;  
within this meal;  
among your people;  
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks  
to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit,  
in your church,  
without end.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

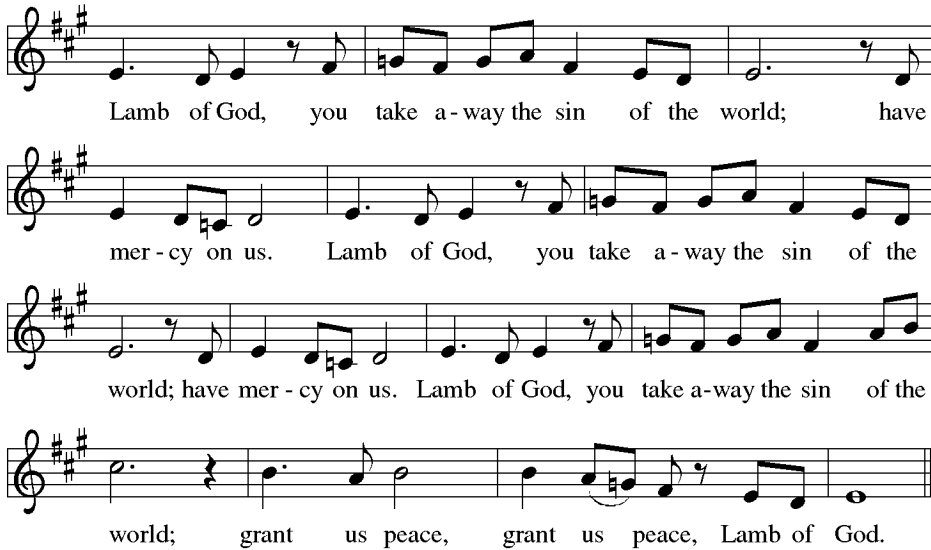
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!*

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come! The feast is ready!

## **COMMUNION**

## COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* ELW p. 191



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

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

**+SENDING+**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN Sent Forth By God's Blessing ELW 547**

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.
  
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,

with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. You are the body of Christ!  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, June 16, 2024**

**Presiding Minister:** Rev. Jim Krauser

**Guest Pianist:** Carol Yachanin

**Assistant Minister:** Terry Gustafson

**Lector:** Mike Beaudoin

**Tech Team:** Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Noah Galvin, Connor Pratt

**Ushers:** Keith Hintz, Amanda Hintz, Michael Beaudoin

**Altar Guild:** Denise Martin

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## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Wednesday, June 19, 2024**

6:30 p.m. Summer Bells

### **Thursday, June 20, 2024**

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

### **Sunday, June 23, 2024;** 5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour/Informal Congregational Meeting Regarding The Formation of New Congregation

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: [churchoffice@standrewct.org](mailto:churchoffice@standrewct.org)

The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor, phone #: 860.857.9362

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator