



## Time After Pentecost

Sunday, June 13, 2021

*An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in Spirit.*

### Gathering in God's Presence

**Prelude** — “Dunlap’s Creek”

Setting by Dan Uhl

Online Recording from 2020 AGO Recital with Ben Bruflat

**Welcome**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

The Divine Gardener cannot sow seeds of justice and peace  
where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks.

We confess that our hearts may need tilling  
and the digging out of the deeply rooted sins  
that crowd out seedlings planted with divine compassion.

God of steadfast love,  
you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy,  
**Now let us germinate a new life, growing with integrity!**

God of steadfast love,  
you change the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy  
**Now let us sprout a new life, growing with honesty!**

God of steadfast love,  
you change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy,  
**Now let us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!**

Divine Gardener, you tend us in steadfast love,  
In Christ, this faithful love is planted in our hearts.  
Gathered as our family of faith, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us,  
we can now produce forgiveness for each other as we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

## Hearing & Responding to Scripture

### A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Ezekiel 17:22-24

22 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.

23 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.

24 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 — *spoken responsively by verse*

1 It is a good thing to give thanks | to the Lord,  
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

**2 to herald your love | in the morning  
and your faithful- | ness at night;**

3 on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,  
and to the melody | of the harp.

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

12 The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

**13 Those who are planted in the house | of the Lord  
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**

14they shall still bear fruit | in old age;  
they shall be | green and succulent;  
15**that they may show how up- | right the Lord is,**  
**my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

**A Reading from the Epistles** — 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

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.

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!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** — hymn no. 528

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace, you alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia.*

**\*Gospel** — Mark 4:26-34

The Gospel of Mark, the 4th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

26[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,27and 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.

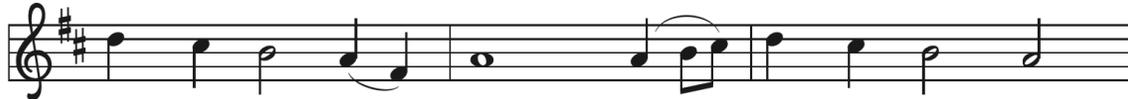
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn — no. 952 (from *All Creation Sings*)

“The Reign of God, like Farmer’s Field”



1 The reign of God, like farm - er’s field, bears  
 2 The reign of God is like a pearl on  
 3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,  
 4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from  
 5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are  
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that  
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it  
 ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - ’ry  
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.  
 pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.  
 ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.  
 feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.  
 kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939  
 Music: DUNLAP’S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816  
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**\*Affirmation of Faith — 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 power of 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**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

### **The 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Offering**

*Please remember to give financially to support our ministry.*

*You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.*

## **Departing to Serve God's World**

### **Call Committee Update & Announcements**

### **Blessing**

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

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Start small, make a big difference. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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.

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.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

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## Acknowledgements

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“Confession and Forgiveness” written by James E. Janeczek, in Seeds of Faith: Service Prayers for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways archive. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-21.html>

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### Online Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen  
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat  
Lector/Assistant: Stadick Family

### In Person Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen  
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat  
Greeter/Reader: Michelle Twait  
Ushers: Carrie and Keith Stelter

## Announcements

### **Next Sunday, June 20 - Outdoor Worship and First Communion!**

- The June 20th service will be held outside at 10:00 a.m.
- Chairs will be provided, but you are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket if that is your preference.
- Don’t forget your bug spray and sunscreen!
- Please continue to wear a mask outdoors if that makes you more comfortable or if you are not vaccinated.
- If you have your Communion Kit cups or another small cup at home, you are encouraged to bring those along to receive communion along with two second graders, who will be celebrating their First Communion on this special day!

### **Public Access Change on June 20**

- On outdoor worship Sundays, there will be NO pre-recorded worship.
- The service will be recorded in real time and posted later the same morning.
- Our SPPA slot at 11:30 will be a repeat of the previous week.
- SPPA will air the recording of the outdoor service on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. and add a showing at 6:00 p.m. as well as our regular times on Monday at 6:00 p.m., and Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.

### **Emmanuel Nine Commemoration**

- “As part of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members adopted a resolution designating June 17 as a commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people shot and killed on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.”  
(from the ELCA website)
- First Lutheran is going to answer that call and hold a commemorative service as we continue to work toward racial justice in our country. Join us for a special service on Thursday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Prayers**

- We offer prayers of thanksgiving for our high school graduates: Kody Braun, Madison Doose, Tyler Erickson, Audrey Kennedy, Anna LoFaro, Dakota Matheson, Elizabeth Orth, Katie Petersen, Jakob Rimstad, Owen Schaffer.
- We pray for the family of Sheryl Strand whose mother, Mildred Loffredo, recently died.
- We pray also for Pastor Harold Shudlick, friend of the Malms and Paul Berkeland, Sharon’s brother, both of whom are undergoing special surgeries.
- We offer a prayer for healing to Aileen Bipes, who is safely recovering from knee surgery.
- We pray for Erika Schuldt who has been dealing with operation and recovery.
- We pray for Glen Stryker who had special surgery at Rochester this past week.
- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Tom Stenson, Chuck Petry, Paul Aasen, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, and Urusla McRostie, and for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.