

Time After Pentecost

June 13, 2021
9:30 a.m. Worship
Christ Lutheran Church
Cottonwood, Minnesota



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. (adapted from Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2020)

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.*

Prelude

Call to Worship

Words of Welcome

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Words of Faith

from Psalm 92

P: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

All: to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness at night,

P: to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

All: For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

P: The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

All: They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.

Please rise in body or spirit.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

All: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence for a time of self-reflection

P: God our provider,

All: 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.

P: Hear the Good News: 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.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God,

All: 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, whom with you and the Holy Spirit we worship and praise, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Kinsley Elaine Hurt

Profession of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

P: Let us profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin and confess the faith of the church. Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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.

Baptismal Words of Welcome

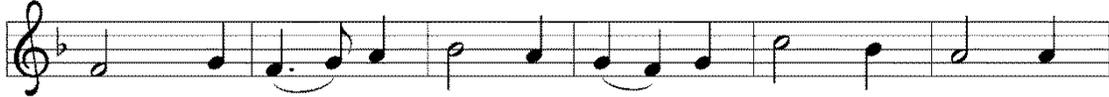
All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God’s creative and redeeming word to all the world.

You are invited to hum or sing along softly with the music.

**Gathering Music “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
Words and Music are printed on the next page**

ELW #631

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



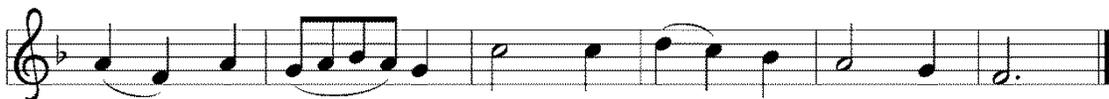
earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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WORD.

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

First Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus 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. ²³On 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. ²⁴All 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God

Second Reading 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!

L: Word of God, Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God

Please rise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”
Words and Music are printed on the next page

ELW #512

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
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Gospel Reading

Mark 4:26-34

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] also 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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Message

Pastor Janel Kuester

Hymn of the Day

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW #679



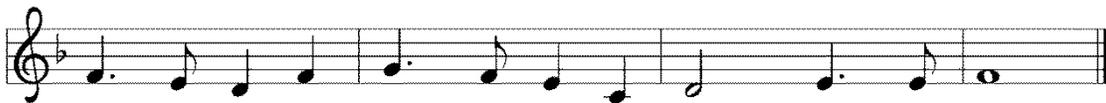
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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Prayers of God's People

The congregation responds to the prayer petitions with, "hear our prayer."

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

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world

*Your offering can be received this day at the door in the offering plate,
through the mail, or dropped off at the church office.*

You can also do a one-time or recurring gift via the website.

Thank you for your generosity.

Community Announcements

Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray: Living God,

All: we give you the things that are yours: our skills, our time, our possessions, our selves. Bless us and these gifts. Move us to works of faith and labors of love for the good of all your people; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sending Blessing

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

All: Amen.

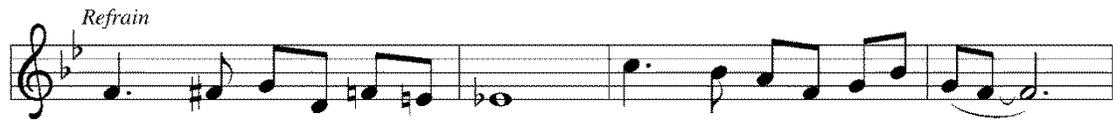
Sending Hymn

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

ELW #697

Words and Music are printed on the next page

Just a Closer Walk with Thee



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional
 Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

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Sending Words

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude



Today, received into God's Kingdom of Grace through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, is Kinsley Elaine Hurt. Please remember Kinsley in your prayers, as well as her parents Brook and Jasmine Hurt and sponsors Melisa Dallenbach and Heather Hurt.

Worship Assistants, Thank You For Serving This Sunday, June 13, 2021

Musician: Marian Kalass **Assisting Minister:** Linda Magnuson

PA Operators: Tracy Sterner

Video Camera Operators: Greg Isaackson, Sid Olson

Ushers: Jonathan Olson (captain); Scott Boehne, Greg Golberg, Conner Moseng, Corey Moseng, Michelle Moseng, Cal Teske, Linda VanUden-Wilson, David Wilson

Altar Care: Tom and Pat Hinz, Carolyn Olson

Count Offering: Ryan Fromm, Shawn Myers

Worship Options

In person worship: Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

On Church YouTube Channel – links are posted on both the church Facebook Page and on our website.

On the Local Cable Channel 180: Sundays at 10:45 a.m. & Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

Bulletins are emailed and are posted at our website: christcottonwood.org.

QR Code for Online Giving



Thank You --The ministry to which God has called us is continuing in differing ways. We are grateful for your ongoing financial offerings that can be mailed to the church (P.O. Box 166, Cottonwood, MN 56229) or given online with the following link:

<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1600>

Prayer Requests

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:6-7 to, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*” Your prayers are a gift to those requesting them, and encouragement for one another as we experience challenges, sorrows, or thanksgivings of any kind.

Health Concerns, as well as Others In Our Hearts and On Our Minds:

Kelly Arnold	Sandra Arnold	Brooks Baker	Landyn Berends
Brody Bloch	Cole Busack	Norm Evers	Grant Johnson
Bob Kaeter	Teri Kemmer	Cole Louwagie	Lane Louwagie
Gretchen Noon	Bobby Olson	Lloyd Powell	Savannah Rausch
Gene Tople			

All those dealing with illness, addictions, depression, cancer, unemployment, under-employment, and any challenges in their lives.

Independent Living/Assisted Living/Care Center Residents/Homebound:

Arvilla Berg, Darleen Cole, Michele Engholm, Elaine Elston, Irene Evers, Norm Evers, Janet Gniffke, Julie Jaeger, Marietta Jarcho, Betty Lovsness, Lila Mauland, Laurie Pickthorn, Donna Neuharth, Bobby Olson, Alnora Pederson, Margaret Rewerts

Marriage: *Andrew Praus and Victoria Bladow on June 5*

Families of our Congregation: *Chad and Julie Gregoire, Evan
Dominick and Mallory Gregoire, Dixon, Ivy
Jacob and Kathy Gregoire, Ashton, Derek, Jake, Raelynn*

Death: Carol Grove, mother of Amy Jo Remmele. We remember this family in our prayers.

Workers in Other Countries, Missionaries, and Local Congregation Missions.

*Robin's Nest Children's Home, Jamaica
Kikatiti Secondary School, Tanzania
World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)*

Facebook -	Christ Lutheran Church Cottonwood MN
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Mailing -	P.O. Box 166; Cottonwood, MN 56229
Office Phone -	507.423.5100
Pastor Janel Kuester -	Cell: 651.726.4003; pstrjanel@gmail.com



Fellowship Fun Night
TODAY, Sunday, June 13, 7-9 p.m.
At Christ Lutheran Church Yard
For all ages – children are welcome

Is anyone else missing hanging out together in fellowship time? COVID has separated us for long enough. Be sure to mark tonight, June 13, for this “Fellowship Fun Night.” The evening will be filled with the following opportunities of being in fellowship and fun together on the church property facing the lake.

Bonfire Pits and a S’mores Bar – come and enjoy The Classic, The Nutty Buddy, and The Grasshopper.

Picnic Tables available for a place to sit down and enjoy catching up – or bring your own lawn chair.

Outdoor Games: Bean Bag Boards, Horseshoes, Giant Jenga, Yardzi, Tenzi Dice, Ladder Ball, Frisbee Golf, or Bocce Ball to name a few.

Paint Rocks: Rocks will be available for painting which will be used in part for the July event.

Save the Dates:

More Fellowship Fun Nights are scheduled for July 18, August 22 and September 12.