



June 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B

9:00 a.m.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins before God in honesty, humility, and hope.

Gracious God,

We so often miss your kingdom at work among us. Captivated by our own lives we overlook the mustard seeds you have planted all around. Forgive us for failing to notice where and how you are at work. Forgive us when we work against your plans and purposes—fostering divisions when you have called us to a ministry of reconciliation; building walls to keep people out when your branches offer generous nests. Help us to grow in faithfulness, we pray, so that we might reach our fullest height of faith. Amen.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new. In Jesus † Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

This Is My Father's World

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - ting grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'-ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Malbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901
Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, Sower of seeds, be at work among us we pray, that your church may thrive in faithfulness. Whether we are the size of a tall cedar or are a small sprig, it does not matter. You are able to put us to good use. Not by our efforts, but by your power and grace we bear fruit and produce boughs of spacious welcome. You can make even a dry tree flourish. Even we can become a new creation. Urge us on, then, in the love of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

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. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

READING: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, O Most High; **to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;** on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

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

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon. **Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God;** they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent; **that they may show how upright the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

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! The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

The holy gospel according to Mark.

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.

SERMON

For the Fruit of All Creation

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; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Responding to “Merciful God,” with “**receive our prayer.**”

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We give thanks in word and song to God, who makes us glad and gives us joy because of all that God has done. We enact thanksgiving through our offerings. May God put to good use what we give today.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Life-giving God,

Accept, we pray, these offerings from our hands. May they contribute to what you are doing so that life may flourish. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

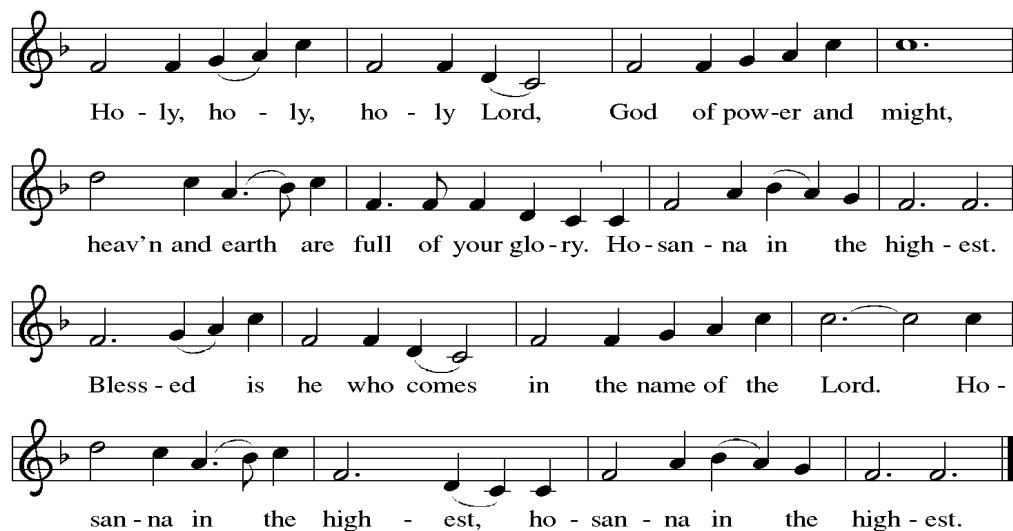
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We are here because Jesus has called us – strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious. All are invited to Christ's table where, in bread and wine, he meets us, and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other. So come now to Christ's banquet. Amen.



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

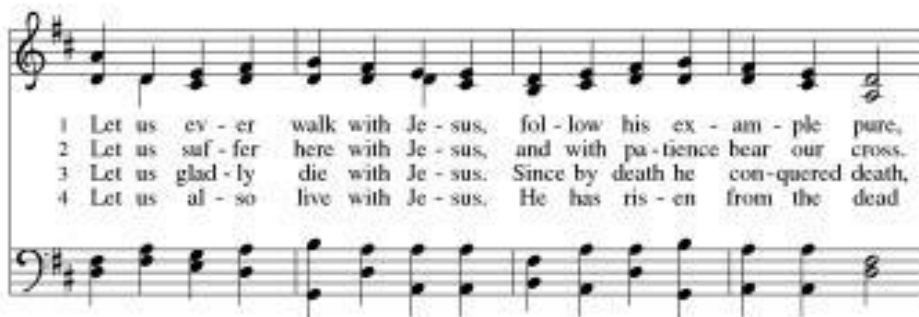


mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

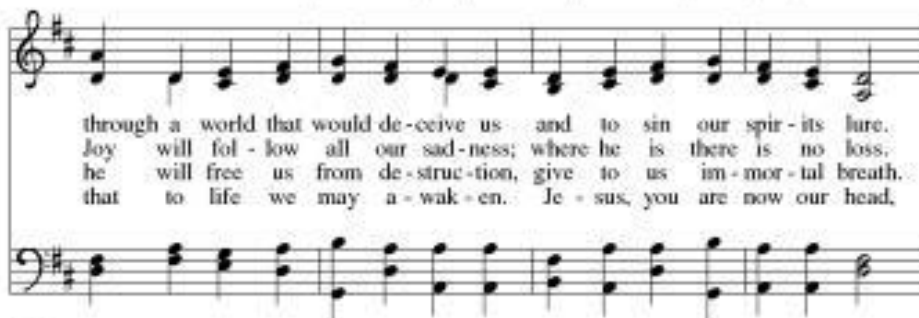


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy;
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626-1681; in *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
 Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Bokze, 18th cent.
 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, alt. ed. Augsburg Fortress.

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Children of the Heavenly Father

Tryggare kan ingen vara

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.

nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
 Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
 Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God, our Creator, take your mustard seed of faith and help it grow.

May it take root and blossom in your hearts and lives.

May the love of God be the passion in your heart.

May the joy of God be your strength when times are hard.

May the presence of God be a peace that overflows.

And May the Word of God be the seed that you might sow.

In the name of the Creator, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, One God. **Amen.**

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
 gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
 bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin,
 ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain
 Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; text and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1990-1989
 Music: O STORF, GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Happy Father's Day to all who share a caring relationship with a dad or dad-figure — even as we gather to worship the most loving Father of all, our God of infinite goodness.

Psalms 20:7 reads: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." May this time of worship help me trust only in you, O Lord.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Shopping Cart* next to the main entrance. **Reminder, food pantries cannot accept expired donations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. The Adult Study will discuss pages 26—44 from *A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture* by Anna Carter Florence.

Vacation Bible School Registration is open! VBS will be Sunday, June 23 – Thursday June, 27. Register on our website <https://stjohnwausau.org/education/vbs/>

St. John Choir will be getting back together, please watch for future dates to meet. Thank you, Amanda Grueneberg, for leading.

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Help support St. John when buying groceries, gas, or getting your car washed at Kwik Trip!

St. John Quilting Wishlist. Left over fabric or never used fabric, light weight denim, cotton or flannel sheets, pillow cases, cotton curtains (unlined), cotton shower curtains. If you are interested, come join us! You can also sew a quilt top from home. Size needed is 60 x 80. They do not need to be fancy. Thank you!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John June 16– June 23

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship

June 17

12:00 p.m. Newsletters Due

June 18

9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. meeting

6:30 p.m. Adult Study

June 23

9:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Baptism

6:30 p.m. VBS

