

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**JUNE 13, 2021 – 9 AM**

**AS WE GATHER** Today, the Apostle Paul continues his Second letter to the Corinthians noting that, even though we are sinful and as a result mortal, the Lord guarantees our life through His Spirit, that the old is gone and the new has come because of Christ. Our lives have been redeemed and now grow from a seed in His love and forgiveness, to a mature tree that gives rest in the branches including identity, security and meaning in the Gospel of Christ flowing out of us in word and deed. Jesus uses the parable of the mustard seed in the Gospel today to remind us that His Word and the gifts of the sacraments make us alive to boldly share the truth of love and salvation.

**† IN DOMINE JESU †**  
*(In the Name of Jesus)*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME** **“This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it.”** *Psalms 118:24*

**GATHERING HYMN** **“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”** *LSB 700 vs 1-3*

**INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*Psalms 1:5–6*

P: Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Let us then come before our gracious Lord to repent of our sins to receive His forgiveness.

**C: Holy and gracious God, I confess that I have sinned against You, in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done, and by what I have not done. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, my Savior, I ask forgiveness and pray You to deliver and restore me by Your mercy. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given us His only Son to suffer and die on the cross for our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** **“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”** *LSB 700 v 4*

**Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be; Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee, Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together. **Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**† THE LIVING WORD †**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Ezekiel 17:22-24*

*(The Lord promises to plant a sprig and make it grow, that it may be a noble tree and bear good fruit.)*

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: “I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. <sup>24</sup>And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**

*2 Corinthians 5:1-17*

*(We walk by faith and not by sight.)*

<sup>1</sup>For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. <sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. 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 are of good courage, 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 we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is 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 controls us because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. <sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

**“Alleluia. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*Mark 4:26-34*

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

*(The kingdom of God is like a seed.)*

<sup>26</sup>And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” <sup>30</sup>And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out 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 without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Fight the Good Fight”**

*LSB 664*

**SERMON**

**“Who is in Control? If not Christ, Are We Out of Control?”**

*“<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.... <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15,17)*

## NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(after petitions, Pastor prays "Lord in your mercy" please pray, "Hear our prayer") (after all the petitions have been prayed, we commend all the prayers with these words)*

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## † CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER †

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(In preparation for the Lord's supper, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us)*

**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.**

**THE PREPARATION** *(please take your communion vessel in hand for our Lord's Words of Institution)*

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and after giving thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also after supper, He took the cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My † blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

**DISTRIBUTION** *(Pastor invites first all with the communion kit to partake, then invite those to receive from the altar)*

**COMMUNION HYMN** "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight" *LSB 720*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray together, **Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this Holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your name. Amen.**

## OFFERING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and † give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**SONG OF SENDING** "Your Love Defends Me" *By: Matt Maher.*

### DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace and join Jesus on His mission!

**C: Amen! We will! Amen!**

### POST SERVICE MUSIC

*reprise*

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† SOLI DEO GLORIA †  
*(To God be the Glory)*

## SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE (9:00 am)

**Elder/Communion:** Brit Weimer  
**Lectors:** Mary Deluhery  
**Ushers:** Meg Batchelder  
**Acolyte:** Allie Wagner  
**AV:** Vivian Jobst  
**Offering Counters:** Dave Albrecht & Denny Case

  
**Holy Cross**  
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