

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads (ELCA)

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Sunday, June 17, 2018
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
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.



LET YOUR GUARD DOWN,
LET GOD IN,
BE AMONG FRIENDS

WELCOME . . .

We are privileged to have you as our guest in the Lord's house this morning. We pray that the time you share with us will be meaningful for you and that God will bless you through it. If you have a question that is not answered here, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

Registry: Please take time to complete the registry/attendance sheet found in the pew in the black folder at the center aisle. It is important to us that we know who is worshipping with us today. Thank you.

Worship: This booklet is our order of worship for today. Hymns are found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnals located in the racks on the back of the pew in front of you. Everything else is printed in this booklet.

Our worship includes **Holy Communion**. As Christians in the Lutheran heritage, we believe that our Lord Jesus is physically present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine we receive. However, if you believe that Jesus' body and blood were given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins, you

are welcome to commune with us, regardless of your faith background. A white grape juice is available at the center of the tray for those who do not wish to receive wine.

If you desire to receive communion but are unable to come forward to the communion rail, inform the usher of such and communion will be brought to you.

. . . WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Ministers: The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church -
Crossroads

Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Arnie and Mary Lou Wehr
Accompanist:	Kathy Westerfeld
Acolytes:	Brayden Siebert Isabelle Westerfeld
Assisting Minister:	Gary Westerfeld
Reader:	Gary Westerfeld
Communion Assistant:	Lisa Gausman
Sound System:	Gena Mack
Offering Counters:	Larry Siebert and Gene Krieger
Altar Committee:	Ethel Ollier

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.
Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 533

GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet one another.

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lead by the assisting minister

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come before him with thanksgiving, and extol him with music and song!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; and the mountain peaks belong to him.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the flock under his care.

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 139

A canticle of praise may be sung by all.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

♪ Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the

Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The presiding minister leads the 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.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from the seventeenth chapter of Ezekiel.

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.

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

The psalm is read responsively by verse.

¹It 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 faithfulness at night;**

³on 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.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar 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 upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

A reading from the fifth chapter of 2 Corinthians.

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.

¹¹Therefore, 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. ¹²We 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. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 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.

The assembly stands to acclaim the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142

♪ **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶Jesus 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

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 856

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

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

A brief silence.

O Most High, your divine realm is like a noble tree whose boughs and branches give shade and rest to the peoples of the earth. Make your church a nesting place for all who need your peace and healing. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

O Most High, all the world is a garden for your creativity. Refresh places of drought with abundant rains. Strengthen and keep safe those who fight fires in your forests. Help us tend your mountains and plains, oceans and rivers with loving care. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

O Most High, you speak and your word is accomplished. Speak to the leaders of the nations so they might end cycles of violence, giving people everywhere tranquility and peace. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

O Most High, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Bring the abundant healing blessings of the new creation into the lives of those who suffer illness or deprivation of any kind, especially those listed in the bulletin and prayer book, and those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Most High, your steadfast love and faithfulness sustain your people. Bless fathers and all father figures with such love and faithfulness that children flourish and grow in uprightness and joy. Bless those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O Most High, just as the earth produces of itself and the harvest comes, you gather up your people from all times and places. Bring us along with those who have died into the lasting harvest of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and all for whom we have forgotten or neglected to pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,

and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING SONG:

ELW 186

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads a prayer.

Let us pray together.

Merciful God,
you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

ELW p. 144

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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, ...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144

**♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God,
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus
taught us.

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

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 146

**♪Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond
Amen.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

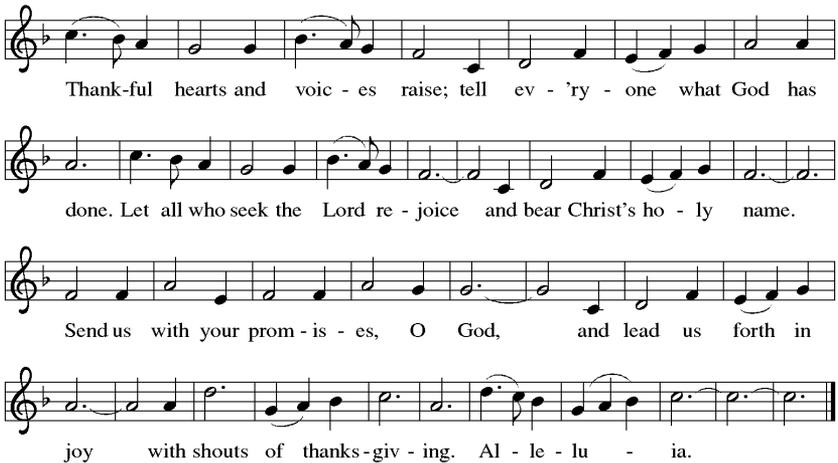
After Holy Communion has been distributed, the assembly stands and the presiding minister may say:

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION:

ELW 206

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen.

BLESSING OF FATHERS

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit on all fathers,
and those who provide fatherly care.
Grant to them keen insight into their children's needs.
Help them to be faithful examples of truth and love.
Bless them with a heart like your heart:
discerning and thoughtful, bold and decisive,
compassionate and loving.
Strengthen their resolve to be men of commitment and faith.
In times of sorrow and disappointment
let them know that you are by their side.
In times of doubt and confusion show them the way.
In times of happiness and joy
let them see your face in all that is good and right and true.
In all times sustain them with the knowledge

that they are your beloved children.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

BLESSING

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 favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG:

ELW 547

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may address the assembly.

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**We are a family of believers who meet to:
enjoy life together
worship and learn about God
make a difference in the world.**

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We remember in Prayer:

Carol Bergman
Mikayla Siebert

Daniel Narwold
Todd Siebert
Sarajane Wilson
Marlin and Julia Siebert

Art and Karen Salvitti
Mike Trenkamp (Tim Mack's brother-in-law)
Travis Wenning (son of former BHS Ag teacher)
Ruth Booster (wife of former pastor)
Melody Briner (Marilyn Gausman's daughter)
Zach Briner (Marilyn Gausman's relative)
Lois Bastien Brown (Tim Salvitti's grandmother-in-law)
Marie Dierckman (Ginny Low's mother)
Louise Eads (Michelle Wehr's grandmother)
Bonnie Haughn (Sabrina Salvitti Haughn's mother-in-law)
Leonard (husband of Lisa Gausman's friend)
George Lerosé (Art Salvitti's brother-in-law)
Tessa Mayer (wife of Wanda Siebert's principal)
Bekah Netherton (daughter of Debbie Mack's friend)
Ronnie Nicholson (Darrell's brother)
Barry Norman (Lisa Gausman's former principal)
Carol Rayve and Ron Price (Karen Salvitti's mother and friend)
Ted Rayve (Karen Salvitti's brother)
Beverly Richardson (Laura Nicholson's mother)
Kristina Salvitti (Art's daughter)
Gary Schopmeyer (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
Charlie Seibert (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
John Ward (Eunice Sisson's brother-in-law)
Jasmine Westerfeld (Sharon Brown's great-granddaughter)

Melinda Wilson (wife of Ben Wilson)

anyone affected by natural disasters, warfare and violence

all who serve in the military

Honored Members:

Paul Gausman Allen and Mary Lou Narwold
Bill Westerfeld

Our members at St. Andrew's:

Julia Siebert Ruth Thackery

Our Partner Churches: Lutheran Church of Guam and St. John Lutheran Church, Bellaire

Today:

Welcome to worship, and a special greeting to those who follow in God's footsteps by sharing fatherly love. Happy Father's Day!

Please stay for **fellowship** in the Fellowship Room after worship this morning. Spend some time catching up with the events in each other's lives.

There are **new devotionals** in the narthex. There are regular and large print, as well as youth/family ones.

Today is the **deadline for newsletter** articles for July.

This Week:

Office Hours – Monday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Thursday 1:00 – 4:00 PM
Pr. Creighton’s office hours –
Monday–Thursday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Monday –

Pastor Creighton in Indianapolis for FCTE
M’rita Moms 6:30 PM

Tuesday –

SEIC Clergy meeting 10:00 AM

Friday –

Movie Night in the Library 7:00 PM

Sunday -

Sunday Worship with baptism 9:00 AM
Fellowship 10:00 AM

Upcoming Events / Announcements:

Please **check the bulletin board** for a variety of programs being offered to our youth and the adults serving youth in our community.

Movie Night is on June 22nd at 7 pm in the Library. Drinks and popcorn will be provided during the showing of *Let There be Light*. Plan to attend and bring your friends.

Handbags for Hope Auction and Luncheon to benefit Safe Passage will be August 11th. They are looking for gently used or new handbags. We will collect those until July 29. If you would like to make a monetary donation

to this event, make checks payable to Safe Passage. See the bulletin board for more information on how you can support this community ministry.

The Southeast IN Conference is sponsoring a **fellowship outing** on August 26th: A Night of Worship following the Florence Freedom baseball team's game. There is more information on the bulletin board concerning times and cost. Registration is due by August 8th.

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The Mystery of Growth

In elementary school, when children learn about plants they inevitably plant a small seed in a clear plastic cup and watch it grow. This helps as they learn the parts of plants: leaf, stem, roots. As we get older we get more sophisticated in our ability to explain the details of the plant and the growth we see, but on some level the growth itself remains a mystery. Why do some plants thrive and others fail? Was it the soil? Too much water? Too little? And what of those plants growing in the tiny cracks in between slabs of concrete?

The growth of faith is a similar mystery. We can do the best we can to provide good soil, in the form of teachers and mentors, parents and pastors. Still, the faith seems to take root and grow in some people and not in others. And then there are people raised in the worst conditions who grow to be strong people of faith.

Jesus reminds us that faith is a gift which comes to us from God. We cannot control it in ourselves, and we cannot control it in others. We can plant, we can water, and then we can sleep and wake until the plant grows. In the end it is God who brings the growth and the Holy Spirit who gives us faith. As people of God we are called to be good soil. As people of God we are called to trust that God will do what we cannot. Faith will grow, and the church will flourish, not because of our grand schemes and plans, but because God will have it no other way.