Growing in Faith – reaching out in love.

First Lutheran Church

Avoca, Neb.



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

9 a.m.

First Lutheran Church * 1434 N. 30th Rd. * Avoca, NE 68307 * (402)275-3300 * www.firstlutheranavoca.org

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.

Gathering

Announcements

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn	"*What is this Place?"*	*ELW* #524
Greeting		pg. 147
Kyrie		pg. 147-148
Canticle of Praise	*"This is the Feast"*	pg. 149-150

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray, together… **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.**

Sit

Word

First Lesson 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.

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

Responsive Reading Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

[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 faithfulness 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 cedar of Lebanon.
[13]**Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God;**
[14]they 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.**

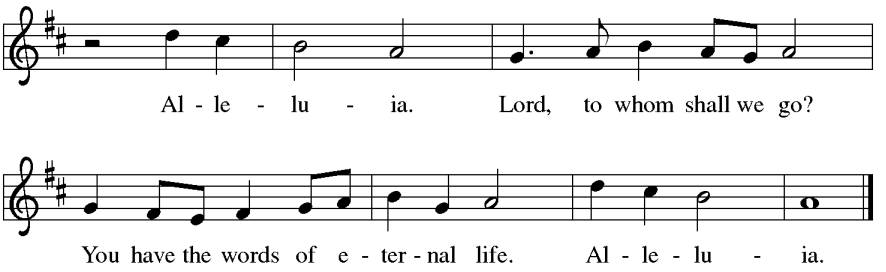
Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

[6]So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—[7]for we walk by faith, not by sight. [8]Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. [9]So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. [10]For 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. [11]Therefore, 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. [12]We 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. [13]For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. [14]For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. [15]And 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.

[16]From 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. [17]So 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.**
Stand

Gospel Verse pg. 151



Gospel Mark 4:26-34

The Holy Gospel according to St. 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,[27]and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. [28]The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. [29]But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." [30]He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? [31]It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; [32]yet 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."[33]With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; [34]he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Sermon "Eager God" Pastor Adam
Hymn of the Day *"O God Beyond All Praising"* *ELW* #880
Apostles Creed *ELW* pg. 105
Prayers of the People…. Merciful God, ***receive* our prayer.**
Peace *ELW* pg. 152

Meal

Offering

Offertory Hymn *"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* *ELW* #186

Offering prayer

Let us pray, together… **Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving pg. 152

Words of Institution pg. 108

Holy, Holy, Holy pg. 153

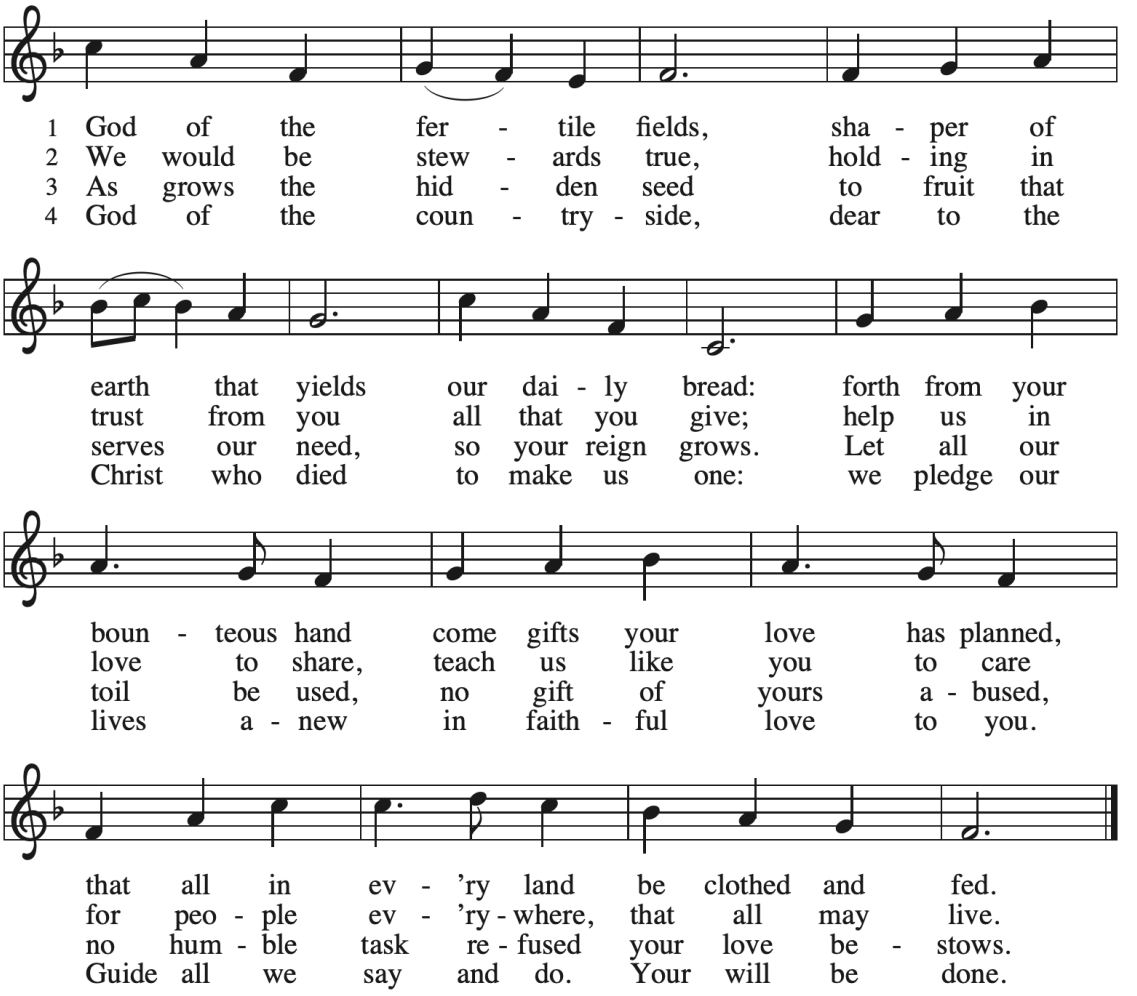
The Lord's Prayer pg. 154

Sit

Distribution Hymns

- *"Lamb of God"* pg. 154
- *"For the Fruit of All Creation"* *ELW* #679
- *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"* *ELW* #733
- *"God of the Fertile Fields"* *printed next page*

God of the Fertile Fields



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Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796
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Stand

Post-Communion Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, together… **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.**

Sending

Benediction

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

Amen.

Sending Song *"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"* *ELW* #551

Sending

Go in peace. You are the Body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Prayers of the People

Sienna Louise Kirchhoff (daughter of Jacob & Morgan Kirchhoff, granddaughter of Marilyn & Craig Kirchhoff) … hospitalized at Children's Mercy in Kansas City.
Mike Bose… undergoing treatment for pancreatic and liver cancer.
Bonnie Heins (sister of Dixie Dobbs)... hospitalized and being treated for Guillain-Barré syndrome.
Roger Hamling (husband of church administrator Rachel)… recovering after neck surgery.
Jan Mueller… recovering from knee surgery and a hospital stay.
JoAnn Michel… recovering after shoulder surgery.
Jane Stubbendick… on hospice care.
Becky Knake… preparing for breast cancer surgery.
Ben Schiefelbein (father of Amy Knake)… on hospice care.
Michael Knake… recovering from neck surgery.
Harold Ehmke… recovering after a hospital stay and heart-stent surgery.
Steve Schutz… recovering from surgery for a broken hip.
Kathy Scofield (sister of Chuck Phillips)… beginning breast cancer treatment.
Craig Knake… recovering from shoulder surgery.
Mark Pieper (grandfather of Colter Meeks, friend of Jenna Knake)… recovering after a stroke.
Scott Davis (brother-in-law of Jim Niebuhr)… undergoing treatment for leukemia.
Harlan Hillman… recovering at home from pneumonia and surgery.
Chris Payne (aunt of Amanda Stubbendick)… continuing treatments for cancer.
Michele Mueller… undergoing cancer treatment.
David Dickman (Mary Jane Carlson's brother)… cancer has returned.
Our members … at skilled nursing facilities, including **Carol Berner** at Falls City Nursing & Rehabilitation, **Betty Dressen** and **Sharon Eggert** (mother of Brenda Brockhoff) at Good Samaritan in Syracuse, and **Alvina Blaikie** and **Eloise Stubbendeck** at Linden View in Syracuse.



Pastor	Rev. Adam J. Klinker
Pianist	Donna Crownover
Altar Servers	Madi Stubbendick (+), Breckin Hein, Henry Klinker
Lay Readers	Alison Hein
Ushers	Bev Panko, Jeff Panko, Will Klinker
Communion Assistant	Fred Berner
Gift Bearers	JoDee Klinker, Mary Klinker
Missionaries to Peru	Jared & Emma Redding