

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 16, 2024 June 16, 2024

SERVICE THEME

A Top-Down Faith: From the Tiniest Seed Grows the Largest Kingdom

**ORDER OF WORSHIP** 

Setting One | 154-171

**OPENING HYMN** 

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast | 644

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** 

FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 17:22-24

Through the prophet Ezekiel, the LORD promised that the kingdom of God would grow large and strong and provide safety and shelter for God's people.

This is what the LORD God says. I myself will take part of the tip of the cedar and plant it. From the topmost of its shoots I will pluck off a tender sprig, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it. It will produce branches, bear fruit, and become a magnificent cedar. Flying birds of every kind will live under it. In the shelter of its branches they will nest. <sup>24</sup>Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, the LORD, bring down the high tree and raise up the low tree, that I make the green tree dry up, and I make the dried-up tree blossom. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will carry it out.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON Colossians 1:3-8

We thank God that the seed of the gospel is producing fruit throughout the whole world.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints <sup>5</sup>because of the hope that is stored up for you in heaven. You have already heard about this in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that is present with you now. The gospel is bearing fruit and growing in the entire world, just as it also has been doing

## St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Building on the Rock of Jesus and His Word 1600 S. Main St. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin stpetersfdl.net ~ 920-922-1160 Worship: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 9:00 am Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor Peter Lindemann 920-342-6924 (cell) or 922-1160 ext. 305 Pastor Luke Boehringer 920-579-8150 (cell) or 922-1160 ext. 304 St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Courtney Meyer, Principal 922-1160 ext. 302 Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal 921-4930 ext. 304

**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE** May the Gospel of Jesus Christ produce faith and love in our hearts in an ever-increasing measure.

Thank you for joining us for worship. If you have any questions about our service or practice, please feel free to ask one of the ushers or the pastor.

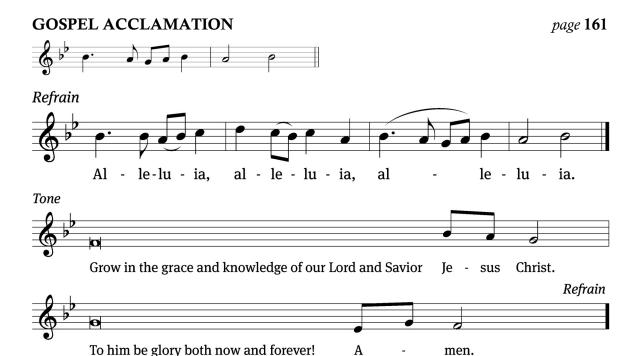
- Tune into KFIZ AM 1450 or FM 100.7 Sunday morning at 8:00 to hear the current weekend's sermon.
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**HOLY COMMUNION** Today we have the privilege of receiving Christ's true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through this sacrament the Holy Spirit seals to us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for the strengthening of our faith. Scriptures also teach that as we commune together, we are publicly testifying to a complete unity of faith based on a confession of all of God's Word. For this reason, we respectfully request that all of those who are not members **please speak with the pastor before communing** with us. Thank you.

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Lord, speak to us that we may speak in living echoes of your tone. As you have sought, so let us seek your straying children, lost and lone. Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the precious truths which you impart, and wing our words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart. Amen.

among you from the day you heard it and came to know the grace of God in truth. <sup>7</sup>You learned this from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf. <sup>8</sup>He is the one who told us about your love in the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



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## **GOSPEL** (sermon text)

Mark 4:26-34

The kingdom grows when the seed is sown. The Word works.

He said, "The kingdom of God is like this: A man scatters seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and while he sleeps and rises, night and day the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The ground produces fruit on its own: first the blade, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>When the crop is ready, he swings the sickle without delay, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>Then he said, "To what should we compare the kingdom of God? Or with what parable may we picture it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which when sown on the ground

is one of the smallest of all the seeds planted in the ground. <sup>32</sup>Yet when it is planted, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches so that the birds of the sky can nest under its shade."

<sup>33</sup>With many similar parables he continued to speak the word to them, as much as they were able to hear. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ!

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## "Listen to Jesus as He Tells Us the Parables"

Pastor Peter Lindeman

- 1. To His people only
- 2. About the Kingdom

**NICENE CREED & PRAYER** 

pages 162-163

**GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING** 

THE SACRAMENT

pages 165-170

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** 

In This Holy, Blest Communion | **669**Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus | **704** 

THANKSGIVING & BLESSING

page **170** 

**CLOSING HYMN** 

On What Has Now Been Sown | 925



**ORGANIST:** 

David Koepsell

**GREETER:** 

9:00~ Mike Dowland