**pentecost 4- june 16, 2024- zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**GATHERING SONG*Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast* (ELW 516)**

1 Almighty God, your word is cast  
like seed into the ground;  
now let the dew of heav'n descend  
and righteous fruits abound.  
  
2 Let not the sly satanic foe  
this holy seed remove,  
but give it root in ev'ry heart  
to bring forth fruits of love.  
  
3 Let not the world's deceitful cares  
the rising plant destroy,  
but let it yield a hundredfold  
the fruits of peace and joy.  
  
4 So when the precious seed is sown,  
life-giving grace bestow,  
that all whose souls the truth receive  
its saving pow'r may know.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship on this 4th Sunday of Pentecost, June 16. Happy Father’s Day to all the dad’s, grandfather’s, uncles and father figures.

We held a successful Strawberry Social this past Tuesday with plenty of fresh juicy berries and fellowship. Thank you to all who helped out in any way, without you as volunteers this night would not have been possible.

We also give thanks to God that Gwen was able to come out and enjoy the Social.

Still lots of mission going on here at Zion. Clothing, eyeglasses, Baby bottle drive for formula.

Next Thursday through Saturday Susan Mills and I will be attending the Synod Assembly where those gathered will elect a New Bishop and Vice Chair. Please pray for all delegates who will be attending.

Our sermon this morning was written by Bishop Michael Pryse. I thought it would be good to share his sermon today as this is the last time we will hear from him as a Bishop.

**GREETING (ELW p. 184)**

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.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 184)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE*Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 188)**

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.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

A reading from Ezekiel.

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah’s royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

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 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17**

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God’s new creation.*

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!

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

**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- Bishop Michael Pryse**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679)**

1 For the fruit of all creation,  
thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,  
thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping,  
thanks be to God.  
  
2 In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.  
  
3 For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

**APOSTLES CREED (ELW p. 105)**

With the whole church let us confess our faith in the word’s of the 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**

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world. *A brief silence.*

Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises *especially* Vivian, Elizabeth, Zoli, Jill, Cheryl, Teresa, Sarah, Gwen, Will, Murray, our members in long term care, Bea, Evelyn and Rob and those we name either out loud or in the silence of our hearts. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With gratitude, we remember the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 189)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING (ELW p. 190) Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful- #182**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

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**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 190)**

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.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 190)**

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:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might,** **heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.** **Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation,

the seeds, trees, plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he had supper with his friends, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up,

and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth

will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)**

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

**Our Father in heaven,** **hallowed be your name,** **your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,** **on earth as in heaven.** **Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins** **as we forgive those** **who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial** **and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,** **and the glory are yours,** **now and forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Come!

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG- Lamb of God (ELW p. 191)**

**COMMUNION SONGS- 635, 551**

**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.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

☩ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Sent Forth by God's Blessing* (ELW 547)**

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.  
2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face--  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**