

Fourth Sunday in Pentecost

Sunday June 17th, 2018

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.



Hymns and Music for Today:

Prelude: *Prelude in d minor* Felix Mendelssohn

Gathering Hymn: ELW 516 - Almighty God Your Word is Cast

Hymn of the Day: ELW 734 - God Whose Firm is All Creation

Offertory: *Prelude in C Major* - attr. J. S. Bach

Communion: ELW 506 - The Word of God is Source and Seed,
ELW 330 - Seed that in Earth is Dying

Sending Song: ELW 550 - On What Has Now Been Sown

Postlude: *Fugue in d minor* - Felix Mendelssohn

Assisting with worship today:

Presiding Minister: *The Rev. Bryan Penman*

Guest Organist Today: *Joel Lefever*

Assisting Minister: *Kim Kriebel*

Communion Assistant: *Joanne Copestick*

Reader: *Katie Colanari*

Nursery: *The Fikes*

Acolyte: *Theodora Morley*

Altar Flowers: *Given by the Conklin & Landes families in honor of "Pop" Jerry Kobansky and the glory of God.*

Altar Guild: *Jen Ramsden*

Ushers: *Joe Drysburgh/LJ Kriebel*

Counters: *Joanne Copestick/LJ Kriebel*

Offering Recorder: *Kathy Pokalo*

Fellowship Hour: *Open*

Prayer of the Day

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

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.

Psalmody | Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

The musical notation consists of three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The lyrics 'The righteous shall spread a -' are written below. The second staff continues the melody: D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter). The lyrics 'broad like a ce - dar of Leb - a - non.' are written below. The third staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line is: G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter).

It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;
**²to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;**
³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.
**⁴For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands. R**
¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar 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;
¹⁵that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice. R

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

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 the Lord. 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!

Gospel Reading: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶Jesus said, “The dominion 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, the sower 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 the sower goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰Jesus also said, “With what can we compare the dominion 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 Jesus 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.

Worship Ministry Announcements:

Learn about worship opportunities here at St. Mark's

New Bulletin Format

This summer, we have changed our worship bulletin format for the summer to a re-usable liturgy booklet and take home announcement sheets. So be on the lookout next week to get some “new things” as you walk into worship next week. We hope this will be a paper saving effort over the summer as we learn to navigate through our ELW hymnals.

Altar Flower Opportunity

There's an opening for the Altar flowers on July 1st, if you'd like to sponsor them on that day, use the sign up sheet in the hallway.

Dinner Church @ 6PM on Thursdays

“Dinner Church” has great roots in the Christian tradition. Meals feature prominently in our great tradition of faith, from potlucks, to picnics, to the Holy Supper we share in communion – food plays a central role in who we are as Christians. We like to say that we are also “fed” by the experience of worship, so Dinner Church seeks to feed you both spiritually and physically. Dinner Church is a very relaxed worship experience, some come right from work, some right from the gym, some from just picking the kids up. No matter where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here at Dinner Church.

Faith Formation Ministry Announcements:

Ways you can develop your faith life, learn about God and develop as disciples

Vacation Bible School

We are currently looking for leaders for our Vacation Bible School. If you are interested in serving as a leader for VBS this year, please speak with Pastor or Kim Kriebel.



Dates: Sunday July 29 –August 2nd
6:30pm – 8:30pm

Illustrated Faith Books

Faith formation continues over the summer with our “Illustrated Faith books.” Each book contains a lesson of the week, a prayer, and a comic strip featuring our characters from our Sunday morning classes. Extra copies of the book are available on the back ledge of the sanctuary, so make sure to grab your copy and follow along with us.

Flat Jesus this summer

Jesus goes with us everywhere this summer! And to remind us, we are inviting folks to take flat Jesus with them to take pictures in their various travels to places. This summer we are featuring a twist with our flat Jesus, we invite you take selfies with other people that you meet this summer with your flat Jesus. Maybe it’s your neighbor, or a friend, the waitress at lunch, the flight attendant on a trip, or folks at the beach – let’s see how many people Flat Jesus can meet this summer! We then invite you to share those photos with pastor via email, Facebook, or text. We will feature our flat Jesus photos each week in the weekly pastor’s email. Can’t wait to see where all Jesus ends up this summer.

Service Ministry Announcements:

Learn about ways you can do God’s work with our hands

Now is a good time to enroll in electronic giving

Heading out of town this summer? Now is a great time to enroll in electronic giving to continue your support of our congregation. We wish our bills went away over the summer, but they don’t and regular consistent giving helps us maintain our budget for the year. To sign up – download the “Give+” app on either apple or android, search for St. Mark’s in Conshohocken (make sure you get the town, there are a few St. Mark’s churches) and then set up the amount and frequency

of the offering; either one time, or on a recurring basis. As always thank you, for all that you do to support the work and ministry of St. Mark's.

Collection Item for Colonial Neighborhood Council

Our local food bank is in particular need of tuna and canned chicken. If you can grab a can or two while you are doing your weekly grocery shopping, it would be a great way to provide for those in need this week!

Special Collection Envelope: The SPCA of Montgomery County

This month's Special Collection Envelope will benefit the Montgomery County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to caring for unwanted, lost and abused domestic animals.

Established in 1909 and chartered in 1916, the Montgomery County SPCA (in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania), has three locations. The Conshohocken facility houses the administrative offices as well as small domestic animals. The Perkiomenville facility includes a pet cemetery (closed) and horse farm along with facilities for small animals. Our newest facility for small domestic animals is in Abington. Currently there's a special need for foster homes for underage kittens.

SPCA Hours of Adoptions: Monday thru Friday (11am to 4:30pm), Saturday (10am to 3pm)
Sunday (12pm to 3pm)

Evangelism / Fellowship Ministry Announcements:

Learn about ways that you can help spread the "Good News"

Help Support the ELCA National Youth Gathering

Later this month close to 30,000 high school youth will gather in Houston for the tri-annual National Youth Gathering. While we don't have youth in this age group to go this time, we will soon!! Our Synod is sending over 500 youth to the gathering and as a way to surround these youth who will be going as ambassadors of our faith to the people of Houston, we are inviting folks to pray for them by name. At church is a basket of envelopes with a prayer bracelet and a youth name that we are asking you to take and pray this month as that youth prepares for the Gathering.

To find out more about the National Youth Gathering check out their website:
<https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>.



This Week @ St. Mark's:

Monday	<i>Office Closed</i>		<i>6am: Meals on Wheels</i> <i>7pm: Boy Scouts</i>
Tuesday	<i>3pm – 7pm</i>		<i>6am: Meals on Wheels</i> <i>7pm: Cub Scouts</i>
Wednesday	<i>10am – Noon</i>		<i>6am: Meals on Wheels</i> <i>8:30pm: HH AA Group</i>
Thursday	<i>3 – 7pm</i>	<i>6pm: Dinner Church</i>	<i>6am: Meals on Wheels</i>
Friday	<i>10am – noon</i>		<i>6am: Meals on Wheels</i> <i>6:30pm: AA / Al-Anon</i> <i>8:30pm HH AA Group</i>
Saturday			<i>7pm: AA Group</i>
Sunday		<i>9:30am – Worship Service</i> <i>10:30am – Fellowship Hour</i>	<i>7pm: HH AA Group</i>

Assisting with Worship Next Sunday:

Assisting Minister: *Joe Jacovino*
Communion Assistant: *LJ Kriebel*
Reader: *Gail Penman*
Nursery: *The Hoffmans*
Acolyte: *Gavin Kriebel*
Altar Guild: *Pam Keebler*
Ushers: *Aaron & Meagan Moul*
Counters: *Susan Jacovino, Lara Hoffman*
Offering Recorder: *Pam Keebler*
Fellowship Hour: *The Schreiters*

Readings for next week:

Job 38:1-11

The creator of earth and sea

Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32

You stilled the storm and silenced the waves of the sea. (Ps. 107:29)

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Paul's defense of his ministry

Mark 4:35-41

Christ calming the sea