

Grace Lutheran Church

Welcomes you to

The Great Thanksgiving



Everyone is Welcome!

Taste and See that the Lord is Good,

Let us rejoice together!

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 16, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn

LBW Hymn # 234

“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

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Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15

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Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

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Children's message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

LBW Hymn # 554

“This Is My Father's World”

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Offering

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Offertory Prayer

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The Lord's Prayer

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Post-Communion Canticle & Prayer

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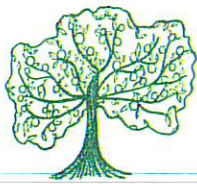
Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn

LBW Hymn # 221

“Sent Forth by God's Blessing”

We carry the “light” out into the world! Depart to serve!



Today's Readings

Sunday, June 16, 2024

4th Sunday after Pentecost

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.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

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.

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

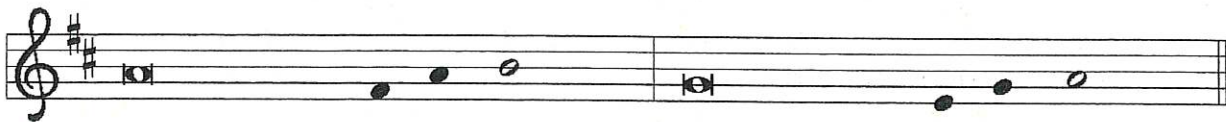
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;

I will accomplish it.

Psalm

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; tone 1



It is a good thing
to give thanks ¹ to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name,
¹ O Most High;

²to herald your love ¹ in the morning
and your faithful- ¹ ness at night;

³on the psaltery, and ¹ on the lyre,
and to the melody ¹ of the harp.

⁴For you have made me glad
by your ¹ acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy
because of the works
¹ of your hands.

¹²The righteous shall flourish
¹ like a palm tree,

and shall spread abroad
like a ce- ¹ dar of Lebanon.

¹³Those who are planted
in the house ¹ of the LORD
shall flourish
in the courts ¹ of our God;

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit
¹ in old age;

they shall be ¹ green and
succulent;

¹⁵that they may show
how up- ¹ right the LORD is,
my rock,
in whom there is ¹ no injustice.

So 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!

Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

[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.

AN INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

We believe that with the bread and wine one receives the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We welcome other Christians to receive Holy Communion with us. Children who have not had first Communion instruction may come forward for a blessing.

We pray always for . . .

Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Becky Knake & Haleigh Werner

We also remember in our prayers . . .

*Winfrida, Juliet, Vanesa & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring
in Tanzania*

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's
box in the south office. You may email the church office
grace68329@gmail.com*

***You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church)
402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613 (cell)***

Today 6/16/24

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

*Sunday Evening 6/16 – Friday Afternoon 6/21 –
Pastor @ CJH Confirmation Camp*

Tuesday 6/18/24

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

Friday 6/21/24

Tower Echoes Deadline

Next Sunday 6/23/24 75th Anniversary Celebration

Registration begins – 8:30 a.m. coffee, pastries & fellowship

75th Anniversary Worship– 10:00 a.m.

Catered Meal to be served @ JCC MS New Gym – 12:00 p.m.

*Please join us for fellowship in the basement
following worship 😊*

75th Anniversary Celebration

Next Sunday, our building will be filled to the brim with members and guests celebrating 75 years of God's ministry through Grace Lutheran Church! As of June 13th, we have 250 adults and 21 youth registered for a total of 271 people, this includes 113 confirmands.

There is a signup sheet on the back table in the church asking for donations of pastries and fruit for the morning coffee bar. Please consider helping in this area. Through your generous gifts we have now raised \$3,560 for the meal and celebration. Thank you!

Highlights of the June 23rd celebration include:

- **8:30 a.m.** – Registration is open with coffee, pastries, fruit, and fellowship on the church parking lot. Enjoy this time to visit with friends who have traveled from afar.
- **9:00 a.m.** – Special music will be provided by "The Grace Notes."
- **9:45 a.m.** – John Weber will start playing the organ prelude.
- **10:00 a.m.** – The worship service begins with Nebraska ELCA Bishop Scott Johnson delivering the sermon and Kari Thorberg Borlaug serving as cantor. A special choir will sing, and the youth handbell choir will perform.
- **???? a.m.** - Immediately following the service, a drone picture will be taken of all attendees on the west side of the church, utilizing the steps and the grass.
- **12 noon** – A catered meal will be served following worship at the JCC-Cook Site new gym.

Gators will be available to transport people, if necessary, from the church to the school. Parking at the school initially might help with traffic flow.

- 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee