

*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

\*\*\*\*\*  
4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 16, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

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LBW Hymn # 234

“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

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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.

<sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall  
know

that I am the **LORD**.

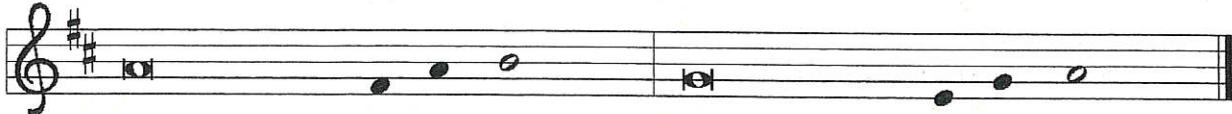
I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the **LORD** have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

## Psalm

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



It is a good thing  
to give thanks <sup>1</sup> to the **LORD**,  
to sing praise to your name,  
<sup>1</sup> O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>to herald your love <sup>1</sup> in the morning  
and your faithful- <sup>1</sup> ness at night;  
<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and <sup>1</sup> on the lyre,  
and to the melody <sup>1</sup> of the harp.

<sup>4</sup>For you have made me glad

by your <sup>1</sup> acts, O **LORD**;

and I shout for joy  
because of the works  
<sup>1</sup> of your hands.

<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish

<sup>1</sup> like a palm tree,

and shall spread abroad  
like a ce- <sup>1</sup> dar of Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted**  
**in the house <sup>1</sup> of the **LORD****  
**shall flourish**  
**in the courts <sup>1</sup> of our **God**;**

<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit  
<sup>1</sup> in old age;  
they shall be <sup>1</sup> green and  
succulent;

<sup>15</sup>**that they may show**  
**how up- <sup>1</sup> right the **LORD** is,**  
**my rock,**  
**in whom there is <sup>1</sup> 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—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>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.

[<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> We are not commanding 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.

<sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] <sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> So 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, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup> He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It

is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> 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.”

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he 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](mailto: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 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

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

*75<sup>th</sup> 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 ☺*

## 75<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>, we have 250 adults and 21 youth registered for a total of 271 people, this includes 113 confirmants.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee