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**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

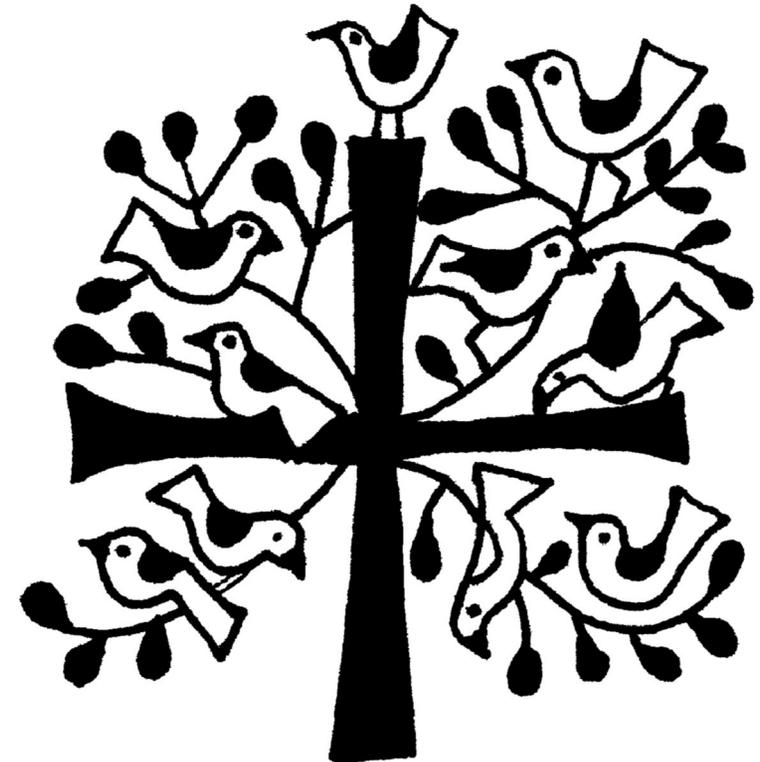
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***St. John's celebrates God's love,  
Proclaims the Gospel and  
Serves our neighbors.***



**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Sunday, June 13, 2021

11:00 am

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.

\* = Please Stand

**Prelude**

*Above All  
Amazing Grace*

**Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Perry

**Welcome First Time Worshipers**

**\*Opening Song**

*God of Wonders*

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P. During the season of Pentecost, we ask God to help us grow in faith. Faith is trust that God is at work even when we don't see it. Faith is acting when God calls us. Let's come before God and confess our impatience that undermines our trust in God and our failure to act.

*(Silence for Reflection)*

C. **Loving God, we get impatient and don't trust you are working. We close our eyes and don't act when you call us. Forgive our impatience and lack of trust. Give us a heart to trust, eyes to see, and lives that are quick to respond to your call; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

P. Hear the Good News: because of Jesus, God forgives us! We are set free from the past and its impatience and failures. We are set free to grow in trust each day and be ready for God's harvest. **Amen!**

**\*The Sharing of the Peace**

**June 13, 2021**  
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**Worship Leaders**  
**11:00 am**

Pastor: Peter Perry  
Lector: Cindy Staggs  
Ushers: Jean Gedney  
Jean Buffington  
Streaming: Gwen Taylor  
Sound: Gene Phillips  
PowerPoint: Zoey Goslin  
Altar Care: Pat Bodine  
Janet Newnam  
Band: Tracy Williams  
Bill Cox  
Suzanne Darby  
Garry Hudson  
Charlie Van

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

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.

### **Prayer of Confidence in Christ** (For those at home)

My Lord Jesus, I believe that You are present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. Embrace me and unite me wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

### **Distribution**

*The Pastor will bring the bread to your seat. Please put one hand open upon another to receive and wait until indicated before removing your mask to eat the bread.*

**Communion Song**                      *Blessings*

### **\*Prayer after Communion**

### **\*Blessing**

**\*Sending Song**                      *Good News*

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

P. Let us pray.  
C. **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.**

### **A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel 17:22-24**

<sup>22-24</sup> “GOD, the Master, says, I personally will take a shoot from the top of the towering cedar, a cutting from the crown of the tree, and plant it on a high and towering mountain, on the high mountain of Israel. It will grow, putting out branches and fruit—a majestic cedar. Birds of every sort and kind will live under it. They’ll build nests in the shade of its branches. All the trees of the field will recognize that I, GOD, made the great tree small and the small tree great, made the green tree turn dry and the dry tree sprout green branches. I, GOD, said it—and I did it.”

Reader:                      The Word of the Lord.  
Congregation:              **Thanks be to God!**

### **A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 5:6-17**

<sup>6-8</sup> That’s why we live with such good cheer. You won’t see us drooping our heads or dragging our feet! Cramped conditions here don’t get us down. They only remind us of the spacious living conditions ahead. It’s what we trust in but don’t yet see that keeps us going. Do you suppose a few ruts in the road or rocks in the path are going to stop us? When the time comes, we’ll be plenty ready to exchange exile for homecoming.

<sup>9-10</sup> But neither exile nor homecoming is the main thing. Cheerfully pleasing God is the main thing, and that’s what we aim to do, regardless of our conditions. Sooner or later we’ll all have to face God, regardless of our conditions. We will appear before Christ and take what’s coming to us as a result of our actions, either good or bad.

<sup>11-14</sup> *That* keeps us vigilant, you can be sure. It’s no light thing to know that we’ll all one day stand in that place of Judgment. That’s why we work urgently with everyone we meet to get them ready to face God. God alone knows how well we do this, but I

hope you realize how much and deeply we care. We're not saying this to make ourselves look good to you. We just thought it would make you feel good, proud even, that we're on your side and not just nice to your face as so many people are. If I acted crazy, I did it for God; if I acted overly serious, I did it for you. Christ's love has moved me to such extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do.

<sup>14-15</sup> Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.

<sup>16-20</sup> Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.  
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

### The Gospel According to Mark 4:26-34

<sup>26-29</sup> Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows—he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps—harvest time!

<sup>30-32</sup> "How can we picture God's kingdom? What kind of story can we use? It's like an acorn. When it lands on the ground it is quite small as seeds go, yet once it is planted it grows into a huge oak tree with thick branches. Eagles nest in it."

<sup>33-34</sup> With many stories like these, he presented his message to them, fitting the stories to their experience and maturity. He was never without a story when he spoke. When he was alone with his disciples, he went over everything, sorting out the tangles, untying the knots.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.  
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

**Sermon Song** *You Have Shown Us*

**Sermon** In Christ, There Is a New Creation! Pastor Perry

**The Apostles' Creed** Page 105

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 the Church

Each petition ends...Lord, in your mercy,  
**Response: Hear our prayer.**

### Prepare Offering

*You are welcome to place your offering in the plate in the back as you depart.*

### Holy Communion

*All who are baptized and believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread are welcome to receive. You do not need to be a member of St. John's.*

### \*Words of Institution