

REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

4955 W. 158TH Street Oak Forest, IL 60452

708-687-2432

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021

9:30 A.M.

The cost of our Bulletin cover is donated by

McKENZIE FUNERAL HOME

15618 Cicero Avenue Oak Forest, Illinois (708) 687-2990

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3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Art James ~sermon/ Tony Ogarek ~leader

Organist/ Piano~ Amy Ogarek

Office Administrator~ Deb Frawley

Music Coordinator~ Jan Strojny

Ministers- The People of Redeemer's

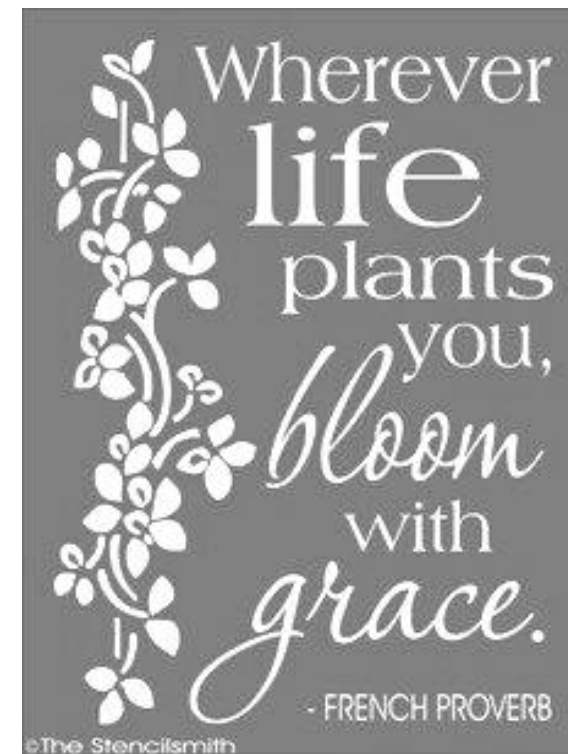


*Are given in celebration of
Roger & Karen Strojny's
20th wedding anniversary!*

Put on your calendar:

August 14~ Elvis Night with the Thunderbolts

Tickets are \$6 each and reservations due by July 11.



Sending Song: “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Announcements & Sharing

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

“Discovering Christ’s community through building relationships”

June 13, 2021

+++++
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.

Prelude: “Ancient of Days”

Welcome

(Please stand as able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.

C: God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God’s mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: “Beneath the Tree of Life”

**Refrain: Come and gather beneath the tree of life
Come and gather beneath the tree of life
Root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing and release.
Come and gather beneath the tree of life**

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord,

C: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy, mercy on us all.

A: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy, mercy on us all.

A: For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word; let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy, mercy on us all.

A: Help, save and defend us, O God.

C: Amen (*Congregation sings refrain*)

The Prayer of the Day

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.

(*Please be seated*)

The First Reading is from the 17th Chapter of Ezekiel

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.

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
Amen.

Offertory Prayer

C: 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.

(*Please stand as able*)

Lord’s Prayer (*spoken*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Apostle's Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

(Please be seated)

Prayers of Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song: “We Eat the Bread of Teaching”

**Refrain: We eat the bread of teaching, drink wine of wisdom,
are given here a taste of the kingdom.
Together joined, the greatest and the least,
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.**

- 1 Wisdom calls throughout the city, knows our hunger, and in pity gives her loving invitation to the banquet of salvation. Refrain**
- 2 Simple ones whose hearts are yearning,
come and gain from Wisdom's learning;
bread and wine she is preparing, know her loving in the sharing.
Refrain**
- 3 Enter with delight and singing, for her richness now is bringing us this joyful celebration; eat and drink in jubilation. Refrain**

The Second Reading is from the 5th Chapter of 2 Corinthians

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

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 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!

P: Word of God. Word of Life.
(Please stand as able)

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Cantor sings verse

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 4th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

Holy Gospel: 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 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

(Please be seated)

Sermon

(Please stand as able)

Sermon Hymn:

"Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil"

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**