

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
June 16, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Pentecost
Happy Father's Day!



Prelude Mona White, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn "Come, Thou Almighty King"
Song Leaders and Congregation

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance., let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 works of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

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.

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 17:22-24

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Israel Exalted at Last

²² Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of the cedar;
I will set it out.

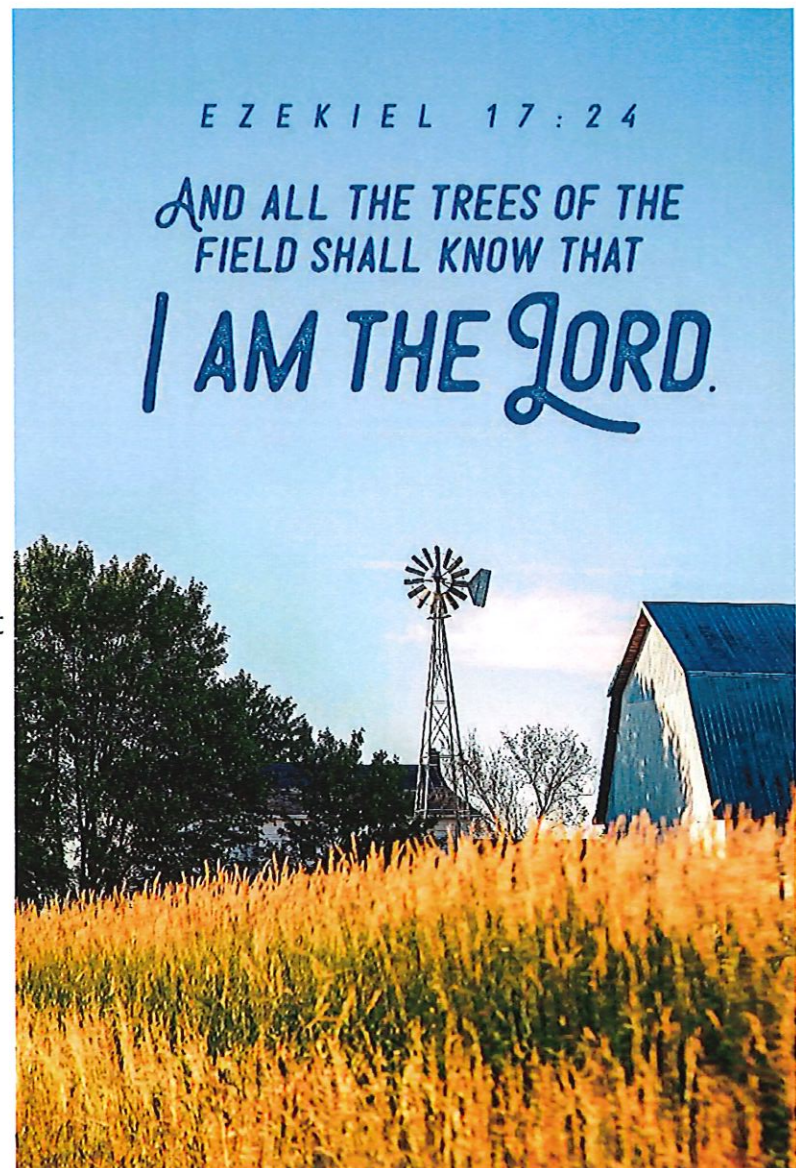
I will break off a tender shoot
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will transplant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³ On the mountain height of Israel
I will transplant it,
and it will 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.

²⁴ 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.

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:6-10



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 be pleasing to him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive due recompense for actions done in the body, whether good or evil.

GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶He also 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.”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

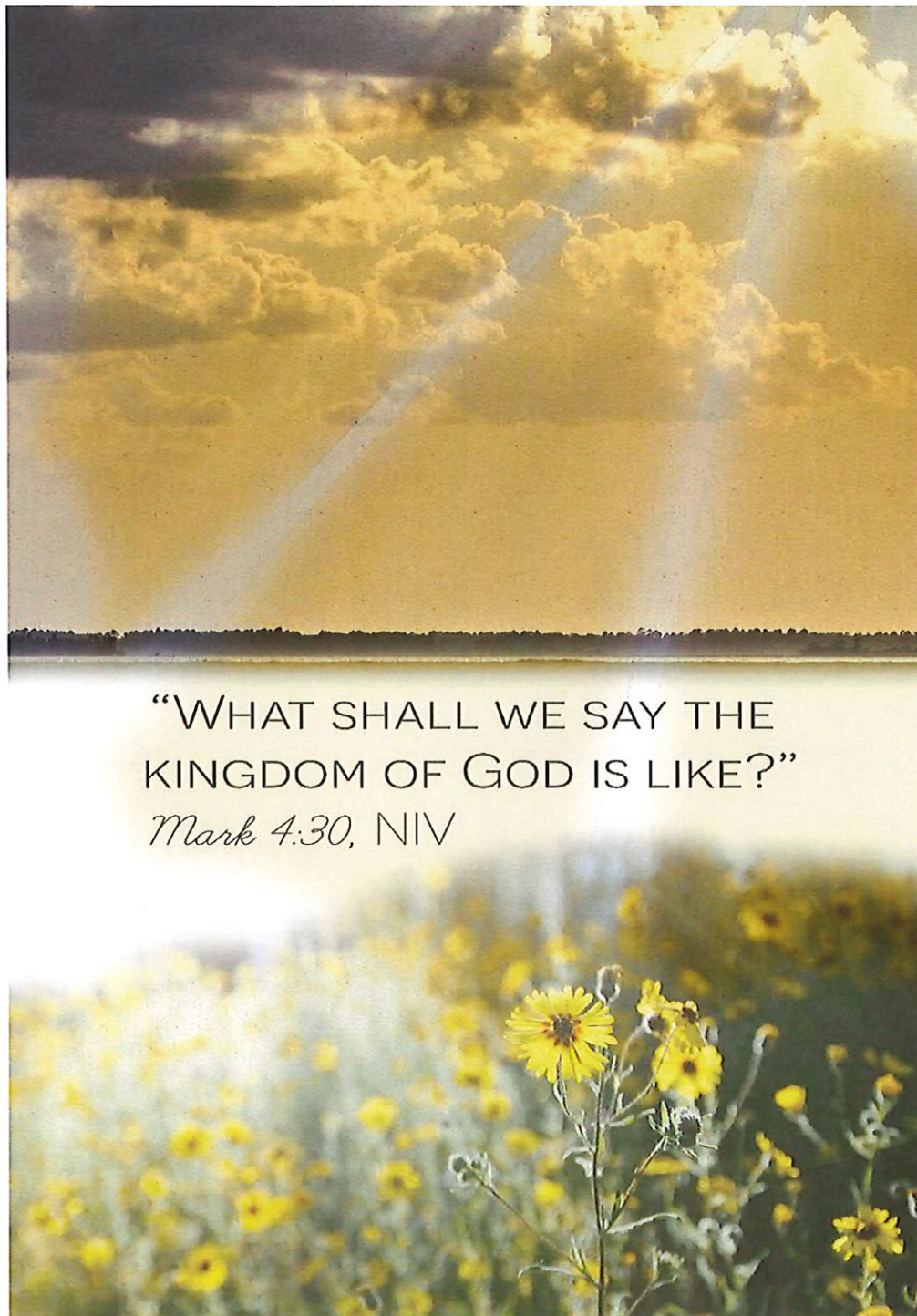
³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

The Use of Parables

³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; ³⁴ he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Sermon "A Father's Love"

Sermon Hymn "This Is My Father's World"
Song Leaders and Congregation



“WHAT SHALL WE SAY THE
KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE?”

Mark 4:30, NIV

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Father, your word says that you alone will cause us to flourish. In Ezekiel, the prophet declares that God alone will take a sprig from the top of a lofty cedar and make of it a tree that will produce boughs and bear fruit and become a place where birds can nest. *Lord in your mercy...*

In our Gospel lesson from Mark, Jesus uses a similar metaphor about the earth. *"The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once [the farmer] goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come."* We do God's work, and God produces the harvest of souls for the kingdom. *Lord in your mercy...*

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. Lord, the earth groans under the load of sin, whether it is violations of the earth itself, sin working among nations through warfare or our personal lives. Sin brings pain and suffering in our bodies and minds and hatred in our hearts. Saint Paul reminds us that *"All of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive due recompense for actions done in the body, whether good or evil."* But the answer to all of life's ills is found in Jesus Christ. *"And [Jesus Christ] died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for the one who for their sake died and was raised."*

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and new life in Jesus Christ. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? *Lord in your mercy...*

We know that we have salvation through the blood of Jesus. *"So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!"* That is our hope for now and for eternity: to be new creatures in Christ Jesus. We give you thanks and praise for this new life, Lord. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ. In His mighty name, we pray. *Amen.*

CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music "A Joyful Song" by Gordon Young
Choral Ensemble

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13

What matters is not your outer appearance ... but your inner disposition. Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in.

—1 Peter 3:3-4, MSG

Often, people who meet me for the first time will remark, “Well, you don’t *look* like a preacher!”

I usually counter with, “So, what’s a preacher *supposed* to look like?” I suspect that many people think that preachers are supposed to look like undertakers or accountants. But, that brings up the question of what undertakers and accountants are supposed to look like. For me, the answer is that accountants and undertakers are supposed to wear dark suits, have slick, greasy hair, and pocket protectors stuffed with Bic ballpoint pens. A stereotype for sure!

A couple of generations ago, preachers were definitely men, as were most doctors and lawyers. On television, comedy shows often had scenes where the patient was waiting for his doctor, confused when a woman showed up saying she was Dr. So-and-So. “Well, you don’t look like a doctor!” No, she didn’t, because doctors 50 years ago were overwhelmingly men. Thankfully, that’s all changed now.

In today’s Bible reading, the prophet Samuel is having trouble identifying Israel’s next king, the man God wants to move Israel forward. As he looked upon the sons of Jesse, he saw a number of lads who looked like future kings. But God said, “No, the future king is a shepherd. He’s out in the meadow tending sheep and playing his lyre.”

When Samuel saw this kid, I am sure he thought, “You don’t *look* like a king!”

But God told Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart” (v. 7)

David would become a man whom the Bible describes as a man after God’s own heart.

We humans tend to look at outward appearances and make rash judgments. God looks inside. And when God looks at us, what does God see? Do we look like someone who believes and trusts in God? Do we look like a person who sees others as God sees them?

We often go to a lot of trouble to ensure that our outward appearance looks just so. But let’s not forget to take care of our inner appearance, because it is our inner self that determines who we really are.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, you have made me in your image. May I bear the image faithfully. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



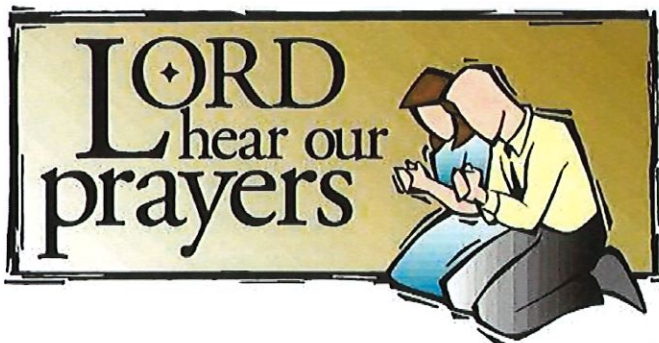
Prayer Concerns

Members in Need of Prayer:

Mary Schmidt
Arlene Robbins on the death of her son, Roger Robbins. Roger Robbins has entered the church triumphant. Prayers for his wife and sons.
Mona White
Don Dueker
Betty Montgomery
Diane Fake
Yvonne Smith
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Debbie's Family on her passing (Sullivan Family Friend)
Irene Goldman (Deuker)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Baby Owen (Fake)
Claire (Vonny)
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



The Lord's Prayer

**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,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"This Little Light of Mine"

Song Leaders and Congregation

Sending

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Mona White, Piano

Daily Bible Readings
Sunday: John 11-13

Monday: Amos 7-9

Tuesday: 2 Kings 15-17

Wednesday: Hosea 1-4

Thursday: Hosea 5-7

Friday: Hosea 8-10

Saturday: Psalms 61-63

Verse to Remember

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

—John 13:35



1. NOSECOUNT					2. DIPLOMACY				
O		S		M	H		R		T
	P		O			R		W	
		O				U			

3. SOMEPLACE					4. BILINGUAL				
R		B		E	U		L		O
	C		R			D		E	
		U				U			

5. HEARTFELT					6. SIDETRACK				
U		N		C	A		M		R
	X		O			A		N	
		O				A			

7. TEAMMATES					8. SALVATION				
C		R		S	N		T		L
	G		N			D		P	
		U				A			

9. FRAGMENTS					10. SCRAMBLED				
O		G		V	U		T		R
	A		O			U		V	
		E				O			

WORDS WITHIN WORDS

In this puzzle to the left, you will reveal words within words like Russian nesting dolls. Place the letters of each word in the nine empty squares, one letter per square, to spell a 7-letter, a 5-letter and a 3-letter word. Each letter of the 9-letter word will be used only once.

ADD A LETTER

Add one letter to the beginning of each of the words below to form a new word. Then unscramble the letters you added to form the two words that answer the clue.

__host __vied __ova __lucky

__arson __airbrush __ascot __river

__spire __pinioned

CLUE: Description of an angry kangaroo:

Words within Words:
 1. consume, spoon, too;
 2. charity, prowl, mud;
 3. problem, scare, cue;
 4. bullion, adieu, lug;
 5. furnace, extol, hot;
 6. earmark, saint, cad;
 7. actress, agent, mum;
 8. install, adopt, van;
 9. forgave, mason, get;
 10. mustard, curve, lob.
Add a Letter: g host,
 ivied, nova, plucky,
 parson, hairbrush,
 mascot, driver, aspire,
 opinioned.
 HOPPING MAD





“for the LORD reproveth the ones he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.” Proverbs 3:12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honoring All Our Graduations/Promotions



We would like to recognize all our graduates along with any honors and achievements in our upcoming bulletins and our next newsletter. We want to hear about preschool through advanced college degrees, child or grandchild, if you'd like to share. We are excited to hear about all of our congregation's members and their loved ones! Please email anything you'd like to include to Kathy in the office at: gslcfresno@att.net.

OWLS June 17 @ 12:30PM

Hooties will hustle into Jacobson Hall on June 17, Monday at 12:30 pm. Suzie's Summer Garden's Veggie Variety Grub is on the menu. \$8 in cash or a check made out to Susan Gutierrez is requested. A mental match may require a nap by attendees once they return home.



Directory Update—Photo, Address, Email Address or Phone Number



We will once again be updating the directory. If you are fine with us using the current picture then there is nothing that you need to do but if you never had a picture or want to update the current one you can send it to the office email at gslcfresno@att.net or text it to Kathy's cell phone: 559-593-5321. Also, if there have been any changes to your address, email address, or phone number, please send that information to the office email as well.

Pantry Needs Restocking

We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, **canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple)**, canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, **canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly.** Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.

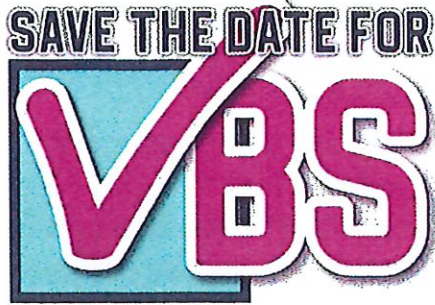


Instagram Posts



Sue Hays is needing some content to put on the GSLC Instagram page. Kathy already provides her with the upcoming events but it would be nice for people to send pics that they take from the events. It's good to get another's perspective on the events. Please email any content to the church email at gslcfresno@att.net and Kathy will forward it to Sue.

**From Generation to Generation VBS Coming on 5 Sundays
In June/July/August**



Our VBS kicks off this year on June 23rd so mark your calendars now, and tell your friends, neighbors, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and so on! We will be meeting 5 Sunday nights throughout the summer, and our VBS will be for all ages, FREE, and begin with dinner each night @ 6:15. Dates will be June 23rd and 30th, July 7th, Aug 4th & 11th from 6:15-8:30. We will eat and open together

and then adults are invited to Pastor Ted's class while kids are invited to participate in art, crafts, science, and games. Then we will gather back together for music and snacks.

All are welcome! Please see Janet or Julie if you'd like to help with music for all, arts & crafts for young people, games & science for kids, or kitchen crew/snack station for all. Thank you!

Shalom. Peace. Paz. Julie Werfelmann

Bring a Friend to Worship

There are business cards paper clipped in stacks of 5 to use to invite people to worship service. Hand them out in your neighborhood or at your local stores. You can ask an usher for the cards if you can't find them.



Invitation to Hope Lutheran Women's Summer gatherings

*you're
invited*

We would like to invite you to join the Women of Hope Lutheran in our Summer Sampler series. We will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. each Wednesday through July 17, taking a break on July 3. Below is a list of the activities.

If you have to miss a Wednesday or two, not a problem. If you have further questions, contact me at 559-313-9567. You

can sign-up here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11ZbLTM2_DMviylVa3eabNXg3qjF8f0HAcR8oti6zY1Q/viewform?edit_requested=true

Sincerely, Candy Paulsen

June 12 Community Center

Devotion: Candy

Bunco

June 19 Community Center

Devotion: Donna

Short business meeting

Folk Dance led by Ellen Lipp

@6:45pm

June 26 Community Center

Devotion: Candy

Painting and/or Quilting (Pam R and Susy)

July 10 Conference Room

Devotion: Donna

Card making (Ada and Donna)

July 17 Community Center

Devotion: Candy

Meal and Fellowship