

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Miller Street Pembroke, Ontario
Office (613)732-8792 Pastor Scott Schellenberger (705)313-0333**

**The Third Sunday after Pentecost - June 13, 2021
Setting Four - Evangelical Lutheran Worship p. 147**

**All page numbers are found in the front part of the hymnal and hymns
are found in the back.**

Prelude

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishnabewaki and Algonquin People.

Introduction

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.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #681 – *“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”*

Greeting - Page 147

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie– Page 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Canticle of Praise – Page 149

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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

²²Thus 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

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

²**to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;**

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

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

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

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

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how upright the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is no injustice.** ⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

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!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

KIDS' MESSAGE

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? Look. See how tiny these seeds are? They are the smallest seeds I have ever seen. A mustard seed is so small that if you were holding one in your hand and dropped it on the ground, you might not be able to find it. Even though the mustard seed is one of the smallest of all seeds, when it is planted in the ground, it grows into a plant so large that birds can perch on its branches and can even build their nests in it. I have read that these tiny seeds can produce a plant that grows ten feet high or more!

Jesus told a parable comparing the mustard seed to the kingdom of God. Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade."

How is that a picture of the kingdom of God? Well, when Jesus first began his earthly ministry, he had no followers. The Bible tells us that Jesus was walking along the shore of the sea of Galilee when he saw two fishermen, Peter and his brother Andrew, casting their nets. "Come, follow me," Jesus said to them. They immediately followed Jesus. As they continued on their way, they saw two other brothers, James and John, mending their nets. Jesus called them and they immediately left their nets and followed him. One by one, Jesus called his disciples until there were twelve of them. That is still a pretty small beginning, isn't it? Jesus sent out the twelve and they brought others to Jesus and the kingdom of God grew. From a very small beginning, the kingdom of God has grown and grown until it has spread over the entire earth.

To get a better understanding of what this story teaches, I took an apple, cut it open, and took out the seeds. There were five seeds in my apple. Now, imagine that we planted these seeds and each grew into an apple tree. How many apples do you think each tree might produce? Fifty? A hundred? Two hundred? I read that an apple tree can produce from 150 to 300 apples each year and that an apple tree will produce apples for about fifty years. Just think how many apples that is! It isn't hard to see how we have enough apples to feed the entire world, is it?

Jesus started growing the kingdom of God with a handful of disciples. Every follower of Jesus is a part of the kingdom and that means that you and I are a part of God's kingdom. Each time we tell someone about Jesus, we are helping to grow the kingdom. Isn't it great to know that we can have a part in growing God's kingdom?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *Page 151*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and 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.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Pentecost 3 - Proper 6 (B) - Green Thumbs - Mark 4:26-34

Have you ever known one of those people with eternally green thumbs? You know, the person who seems to walk by, and plants just naturally perk up? The person whose yard is an explosion of color; whose orchid is perpetually in bloom; whose seeds always germinate, and sprout as they should? The beginning of this gospel – “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how” – brings to mind those people with green thumbs. Because, though our gospel makes it sound easy – scattering seed on the ground, and sleeping and rising night and day – if you are a person without green thumbs, it might be that you scatter the seeds and they lie, unchanged, in the earth.

This metaphor – the way Jesus describes the kingdom of God – makes it sound, on first read, like it comes to fruition by itself. Like there’s no responsibility we have to the seeds. I wonder, though, if that’s entirely true. Looking at people with eternally green thumbs – and thinking of ourselves and our, perhaps, not-green-thumbs, it’s easy to believe that this is just a fact of life; that our thumb colors are unchangeable, like hair color or eye color. But it might be a bit more complicated than that.

Care goes into seeds, even before they are planted. Each packet is dated and put in a cool, dry place to aid in its germination rate. Good gardeners will keep track of how well different seeds have performed. Green-thumbed people can tell you which variety of tomatoes gave the most fruit and which was sweetest. They can tell you what crops underperformed, or which seemed to attract pests. They haven’t just planted the seeds, and walked away – they’ve paid attention, noticing what flourishes, and what struggles.

Care goes into the soil, too. Many gardeners have worm bins or compost piles, churning out what they call “black gold” – rich, fertile soil for the garden beds. People with green thumbs are constantly evaluating their soil – sometimes even sniffing the dirt! – and determining what it needs more of. They add amendments to strengthen the nutrition base. They keep track of what has grown where so they can rotate their crops, allowing the seeds themselves to deposit and draw from the earth to strengthen the health of the whole.

Care must be given to watering seedlings. More than one green-thumbed gardener has confessed that they talk to their seeds, perhaps

humming while working in the garden, or perhaps adding chatty commentary about who is growing well, or who is doing a good job. Water can be a tricky balance – the ideal is the Goldilocks measure: not too much, or the seeds will drown, and not too little, or they won't have what they need to sprout. Water has to be just right, again demanding a level of care and attention from the gardener, asking us to notice when rain has fallen, or when a day is particularly hot.

I've been thinking about green thumbs and this parable, and wondering whether there might be more responsibility in scattering seed, in creating conditions for God's kingdom to take root than it might at first appear. There is a lot of unseen work that gardeners do – ways they have earned their green thumbs. There's dedication in tending to the plants, even before they are scattered. I wonder if there's unseen work – responsibility – that we have, too. How do we create favorable conditions for the kingdom of God to flourish? How do we prepare the soil and care for the seeds and bring our best to them?

In order for the kingdom of God to take root, its seeds need to be cared for – kept in a place to ensure their healthy germination. This happens when we read scripture and pray. We hold on to seeds, deep inside our hearts – and they wait there until it is time to be scattered.

Our soil is made nutrient-dense when we rest it from constant planting. Sabbath is one of those practices – giving us some time for our soil to lie fallow – some time for the earth to replenish itself. Sabbath practice is one of ceasing, and pausing – it's counterintuitive to the world, which would have us work without ceasing. Our soil is turned and aerated when we pray and take time to dwell with God. Delving into the Word creates space in the soil, keeping it from compacting and preparing it to be good ground in which God's kingdom will take root.

We water our small seedlings when we pray or meditate, when we take time to be with God. This might look different for different people; for some, being with God is singing along to worship music, and for others, it's sitting in silence. For some, it might be in reading a book, and for others, in going on a walk. Taking time to abide in God, the seeds we are caring for are scattered into good soil and nurtured as they grow.

The kingdom of God is like a seed – it is coded, already, with the plant it is going to grow into. But it still needs good soil to take root. It needs levels of nutrients and water and a clear patch of earth to call its own. While we don't have to do the work of creating the seed, we do have a responsibility to prepare the soil. The kingdom of God will

surprise us with how and where and when it pops up – but we still have to do the work of green thumbs. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: ELW #512 - *“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”*

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 Intercession

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

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, and those who have asked for our prayers; especially, Florence, Jason, Richard, Heather, Sheila, Vince, Robert, Dorian, Ryan, Kristen. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musician(s) (*especially Blaine*). 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.**

Faithful God, We remember the many, many, Indigenous children who did not return from residential school, including those whose remains were discovered on the grounds of the Kamloops (Tk'emlúps) Residential School. Grant comfort in the midst of grief and trauma. Strengthen the Secwépemc people, Indian Residential School survivors, their families and their communities as they process this tragic loss. Renew our commitment to the journey of truth-telling, mourning and responsibility and guide us in the ways of healing and love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, We cry for the muslim community of London. The horror of hate and the killing of four innocent people and the injury of a nine year old is nothing but tragic. Be with Muslims everywhere. Break barriers that cause terror and sow seeds of peace within all. 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; especially, Conrad Plath and Myrtle Lanthier. 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN: *ELW #679 – “For the Fruit of All Creation” (verses 1 & 3)*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.**

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, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN: *ELW #881 – “Let All Things Now Living”*

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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News and Announcements:

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Richard Hubert, Heather Miller, Sheila Purdy, Vince Rabishaw, Robert Schoof, Dorian Verch, Ryan, Kristen.

Please Pray For Those Who Mourn The Loss Of Loved Ones:

especially, this day we pray for the family and friends of Conrad Plath and Myrtle Lanthier, that they may find comfort in the promises of our risen Saviour. Please pray for the people of the Muslim faith and survivors of the residential schools.

RE-OPENING FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE.

We are excited to announce that Zion will begin holding in-person service as of June 20th. We are limited to 15% capacity so we are asking that anyone planning on attending a service call Jean at the office (613-732-8792) to register. We will continue to record our services so that if you are

unable to attend you can still join us on-line. Please consider attending every other week so as many as possible may have a chance to attend. We will notify you of any further changes once they are announced. Take care and stay safe. - Susan Dupuis, Church Council Chairperson & Pastor Scott

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY JUNE 21

National Indigenous Peoples Day is a day created for indigenous people and their communities to celebrate their culture, heritage, and their feats of achievement. What's more? It is a beautiful day when we can celebrate the diversity that is found in our earth. In an attempt to continue reconciliation with our indigenous neighbours and especially in light of recent revelations at residential schools we will be creating a service on June 20 that honours their history, our relationship with them and a need for awareness.

GUIDING LIGHT DEADLINE

Just a reminder that this Friday is the deadline for the July issue of the Guiding Light. Please have all submissions in to Jean at the office by this day. Thank you!

SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12:30pm on Sunday mornings a week later.

UPDATES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Please note that Pastor Scott is available for pastoral emergencies. This support may look different than we are accustomed to as he will be following all of the covid restrictions. He can be contacted on his cell phone at 705-313-0333, or through the church office at 613-732-8792.

CAMP LUTHERLYN SUNDAYS

We are planning to host a couple of Sunday worship services at Camp Lutherlyn. Stay tuned!

**Today's Video Has Been Brought To You By Zion Lutheran Church's
Production Crew:**

Presider: Pastor Scott Schellenberger

Musician: Blaine Sack

Worship Assistant/Reader: Lorraine MacKenzie

Projectionist: Kathy Godin

Recorder: Ellen Vandersleen

Sound Board Operator: Murray Sell

Credit Researcher: Diane Hammel

This Week at Zion –June 14 - 20

Monday 7pm Council Mtg.

Tuesday 7p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Friday Guiding Light Deadline

**Sunday 10am Pentecost 4 Worship Service with Holy Communion
Father's Day**