



MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

1000 B Avenue • West Columbia • South Carolina • 29169 • 803.796.5948

**June 13, 2021 — Third Sunday after Pentecost
Youth Sunday, Graduate Recognition, Seraph Sunday
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service**

Setting Ten—Holy Communion

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Dear graduates: At this special time in your life we are eager to show you how delighted we are that you have reached this milestone in your life. As fellow members of this community of faith we rejoice with you and want you to know of our pride and excitement as you move from this accomplishment into the next phase of your life. We also want you to know that wherever you go and whatever you do, you are going forward with our prayers for God's continued guidance, power, protection, and strength.

Let us pray, O Lord Jesus Christ, when you welcomed the children your invitation included each one of us. Your guiding hand has continually been upon these young men and women. You have sustained them. You have shared in their laughter and wiped away their tears. In times of confusion you have offered direction. In times of sorrow you have offered hope. In times of doubt your Holy Spirit has lifted them up. Grant, O Savior, to each of these graduates the knowledge of your continued presence as they go forth into the future. Guide their steps. Hold them in the hollow of your hand. Bless them and keep them now and forever. **Amen.**

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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.**

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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Hymn 807

GREETING

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

p. 203

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p. 204

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth: we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

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.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON**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. 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**Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon. (Ps. 92:12)

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 faithful- | ness 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 ce- | dar 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 up- | right the LORD is,**
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.

SECOND READING

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

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!

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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.²⁸ The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."³⁰ He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;³² 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."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.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.
Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Loves Me!

Hymn 595

Sit

PRESENTATION OF BLANKETS

The blankets you see here today have been made by the parents of our graduates. These blankets represent the love that our families share, the love our church family shares, and the love God shares with these young men and women.

Dear Friends in Christ, there was a day when your parents held you in their arms and rocked you to sleep. They cuddled you in a blanket to keep you warm, safe and comforted. Very soon you will be launching a new life, away from the safety and security of this home, family, church and community. As you go out into the world, may this blanket be a reminder of your parents' love and the nurture of this Christian community.

Parent(s): (child's name), I come this day before God to bless you and thank him for your life. You have given my life a deeper meaning and calling. Through you, I have experienced God's love, joy and forgiveness. Wherever you go, whatever you do, my love goes with you, you will always be part of my heart. May this blanket remind you of the warmth of my love, the care of this faith community and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. And on those nights when I cannot wrap you in my arms, wrap yourself in this blanket and know that in God's family you are never alone.

Graduates: You have given of your heart and of your home. You have loved and cared for me, even when it was difficult. Today I honor and thank you for your courage, patience, wisdom and love. Wherever I go and whatever I do, I will always be your child, blessed by your love. I thank God for blessing my life with you.

Stand

CREED

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

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING

ANTHEM

*God is Good
The Rainbow is a Promise
May the Road Rise to Meet You*

Susan Nipp

OFFERTORY HYMN *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Hymn 885

Stand

OFFERING 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.**

HYMN

Where True Charity and Love Abide

Hymn 642

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

p. 108

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

HYMN

Where True Charity and Love Abide

Hymn 642

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

HYMN

Where True Charity and Love Abide

Hymn 642

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

p. 208

Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Hymn 543

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude in E Flat

Johann Sebastian Bach

Altar Flowers. *Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Kay Fulmer in loving memory of Freddie Fulmer on their 55th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 11th, 1966, at Mt. Tabor. The wedding was officiated by the Rev. Marshall F. Mauney, assisted by the Rev. J. Emmett Roof, uncle of the groom.*

Bulletin Covers. *The Bulletin Covers are given to the glory of God by Stephen, Sherri & Rick in loving memory of Freddie Fulmer and Clarence & Lorene Lybrand whose wedding anniversary was June 1st.*

Processional Cross Flowers. *The Processional Cross Flowers are given to the glory of God by Gary & Ann Spainhour in honor of the graduates and youth of Mt. Tabor.*

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Pam Corbacho, Kasey Davis, Anna Evans, Kay Fulmer, Patsy Gambrell, Johnathan Marchant, Brice Mathews.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Jeanie Jacobs, Carol Williams.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Linda Wessinger, Pastor Jerry & Janice Livingston, Sadie Howard, Herman Bouknight, Cheryl Hall, Mona Myers, Lottie Gregg, Melvin Manus, Boyd Steele, Elise Harmon, Lucky Jones, Jennifer Brazell, Hazel Rauch, Mary Hamson, Ann Callison, Adele Rodgers, Faye Smith, Lisa Long.

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Nancy Taylor Lee, Joyce Vanhought, Chuck Backman, Martha Hinson, Isabelle Sundlie, Bill Hunnicutt.

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Andrew Hamson, Samuel Davis, Scott Hash, John Post.

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Marcus Hayes, Tristan Mullen, Cory Fabian, Hayden Henneman, Edwin Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Edwin Torres, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, Adam Mintz, David Mathews.

The Family Of:

Joe Hunnicutt.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by calling the church office with any names to be added or removed. Otherwise, names remaining on the prayer list for more than 2 months will be removed.

Welcome to Mt. Tabor. *We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today! If you are a visitor, please fill out and return the attendance card in your pew rack so we may have a record of your attendance. Our ushers and greeters will be glad to answer any questions you may have about our worship service. We hope that you will experience the presence of the Risen Christ today!*

Worship Leaders

*Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor
Mr. Kevin Davis, Director of Music*

*Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation
Vicar Gayle Nelson, Intern*