

ORDER OF SERVICE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship ~ Setting IV

10:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

The mustard seed becomes a 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.

Today the church commemorates four influential fourth-century theologians: Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, and Gregory of Nazianzus (known as the Cappadocian fathers); and Macrina, a teacher who was also the older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa.

PRELUDE

ENTRANCE HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 679

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity: the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Sisters and brothers, bear with one another in love, maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C **we confess that we have not led a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not acted according to your will. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us. Forgive us according to the riches of your grace. Make us holy and blameless before you in love, so that we might live to the praise of your glory. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. You who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

C: **Amen.**

GREETING

P The blessing of the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious grace freely bestowed in the Son, and the power of the promised Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, Lord God Almighty! ELW 413

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O God,

C: **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.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Ezekiel declares: Thus 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 dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

PSALM: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

(Read Responsively)

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

**²to herald your love ¹in the morning
and your faithful- ¹ness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and ¹on the lyre,
and to the melody ¹of the harp.

**⁴For you have made me glad by your ¹acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works ¹of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish ¹like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- ¹dar of Lebanon.

**¹³Those who are planted in the house ¹of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts ¹of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit ¹in old age;

they shall be | green and succulent;
¹⁵that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

So 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. ¹⁴The 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!

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Mark, the fourth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the twelve and those with him, “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 Our Lord

C. **Praise to you, O Christ**

**CHILDREN'S TIME
THE SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

ELW 449

APOSTLES' 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.**

THE PRAYERS

A: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: Grow us like branches of a great tree that we may be a people of welcome and shelter. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Make us faithful caretakers that this good earth may yield good food, pure water, and fresh air. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Bless the seeds of justice and peace we sow by our living in this troubled world. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Raise up new life through the stories of faith shared in this place and in every congregation, especially the Praire Winds Parish of Trinity in Abilene and Faith in Junction City, Trinity in Ava, and Reformation Lutheran in Wichita. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Give healing, wholeness, and life to those who are ill this day, especially Lou Hagadorn.

God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other prayers are offered.

A: We give you thanks for your faithful witnesses, especially Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa,

Gregory of Nazianzus, and Macrina. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, you hear us when we cry to you. We commend to your embrace all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ and by the power of your Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

THE OFFERING

ELW 184

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Holy God,

C: you open the doors of heaven, giving us every generous and perfect gift from above.

Lift our eyes from the food that perishes, and nourish us now with the food that endures for eternal life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 152

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you...And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name, saying:

C: Holy Lord, Mighty God, Lord of All, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Lord, come, save your people.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P. 154

P: Remember us in your Kingdom, Lord, 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

P Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

p.154

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN "Break Now the Bread of Life"
"Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"

ELW 515
ELW 516

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Gracious God, in this meal you have rained down the true bread from heaven, the body and blood of your beloved Son. So by this promise bring us to abide in him, and he in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

BENEDICTION

P Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW 547

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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