

**Holy Communion**  
**Sunday, June 13, 2021**  
**Pastor - Rev. David Zersen**  
**Organist - Lori Free**

Organ Prelude and Pastor's Greeting

Opening Hymn: **#858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

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

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

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

*Response after the announcement:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Response after the conclusion:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **#392 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

Apostle's Creed: page 105 (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Words of Institution and Communion

Lord's Prayer (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Communion Hymn: **#471 Let Us Break Bread Together**

Sending Song: **#855 Crown Him with Many Crowns**

Dismissal

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS**  
**CELEBRATING OUR 139th YEAR**  
**IN HIS SERVICE**  
**1882 - 2021**

David Zersen has been a Lutheran pastor in three congregations in northern Illinois (Midlothian, St. Charles and Itasca). Additionally, he served as Dean at Concordia University Wisconsin and as President of Concordia University Texas.

He and his wife, Julie, live in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, close to their children and grandchildren who live in Menomonee Falls and Sussex, Wisconsin. Dr. Zersen enjoys writing and landscape painting. His wife is a teacher and church musician who enjoys tending her flower garden and keeping up with four grandchildren. Both enjoy travel, although the past year has put a damper on that as it has on all of us.

*We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today.*

*If you spend time in Door County please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.*

**All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's Table.**

**Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School**

**Visit us at [BethanyEphraim.org](http://BethanyEphraim.org),  
and follow our worship service live, and archived,  
on the web site.**

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** (commemoration of Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, c. 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, c. 389; Macrina, teacher, c. 379) Psalm 52. **Tuesday** Revelation 21:22—22:5. **Wednesday** Luke 6:43-45. **Thursday** (commemoration of the Emanuel Nine, martyrs, 2015) Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32. **Friday** Acts 21:1-16. **Saturday** Luke 21:25-28. **4th Sunday after Pentecost** Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41.

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# Celebrate

Sunday, June 13, 2021  
3rd Sunday after Pentecost

*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.*

## Prayer of the Day

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

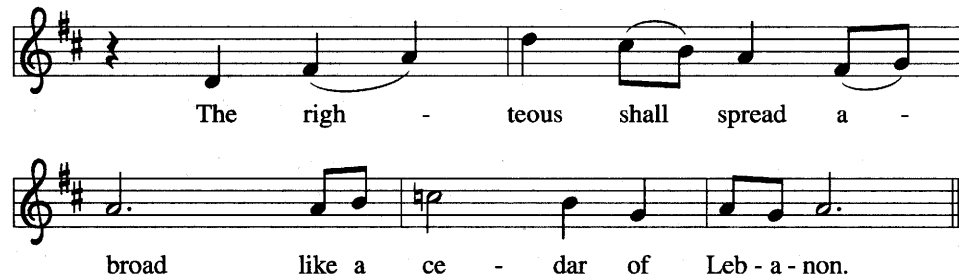
*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

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.  
<sup>23</sup>On 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.  
<sup>24</sup>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.



It is a good thing to give thanks <sup>1</sup> to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, <sup>1</sup> O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>to herald your love <sup>1</sup> in the morning  
and your faithful-<sup>1</sup>ness at night;  
<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and <sup>1</sup> on the lyre,  
and to the melody <sup>1</sup> of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>For you have made me glad by your <sup>1</sup> acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works <sup>1</sup> of your hands. **R**  
<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish <sup>1</sup> like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a ce-<sup>1</sup>dar of Lebanon.  
<sup>13</sup>Those who are planted in the house <sup>1</sup> of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts <sup>1</sup> of our God;  
<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit <sup>1</sup> in old age;  
they shall be <sup>1</sup> green and succulent;  
<sup>15</sup>that they may show how up-<sup>1</sup>right the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is <sup>1</sup> no injustice. **R**

*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.*

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For 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.

[<sup>11</sup>Therefore, 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. <sup>12</sup>We 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. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And 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.

<sup>16</sup>From 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. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

## 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.*

[Jesus said,] “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It

is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>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.”

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