

**\*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.**

**Hymn “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” ELW #634  
vs. 1-4**

**Dismissal**

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

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God’s People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Lori Arndt ; Altar: Janelle Buchholz & Kirstin Arndt

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene, Babbitt, Aidden Tilly, Laurie Switz Johnson, Heidi Stenerson, Doug Short, Sally Dana, Dan Paulson, Richie Vlasak, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Bud Speicher, Hudson Steckl, Kathy VonRuden, Dick Beier, Lyle Schindler.

**IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton, Allen Roscovious



St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
Wilton, WI  
4th Sunday after Pentecost  
June 16 , 2024  
**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ’s Family**

*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.*

***\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)***  
*Announcements*

**Gathering**  
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**\*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,  
God, our provider,  
**help us.**



Sermon

Karen Sparling  
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn "For the Fruit of All Creation" ELW# 679

\*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.

\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Merciful God, **receive our prayer**)

\*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

OFFERING

\*Offertory Hymn "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" ELW#512

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading

*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.*

**A reading from Ezekial 17:22-24**

<sup>22</sup>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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love in the morning  
and your faithfulness at night;**  
<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and on the lyre,  
and to the melody of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your  
hands.**

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

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

<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit in old age;  
they shall be green and succulent;

<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how upright the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

### Second Reading

*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.*

#### **A reading from 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17**

<sup>6</sup>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>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!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

**"Alleluia"**

**ELW p. 188**

### **\*GOSPEL READING**

*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.*

#### **The holy gospel according to Mark 4:26-34**

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>[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.

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