

St. Mark 4:26

Jesus said “The Kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 16, 2024

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (ELW) No. 733

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

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

C: And also with you.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (ELW) No. 634

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O Lord, our God, arrange the course of this world that peace may come and Your tranquil Church rejoice through greater service. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Festive Celebration

Bell Choir

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 1

¹Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

²but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.

³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 [1117]

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Allelula, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Allelula. Allelula.**

*The Gospel

Mark 3:20-35

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

(ELW) No. 516

*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(SBH) No. 27

*The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

O God, Our Help in Aged Past

(ELW) No. 632

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

*Sending Hymn

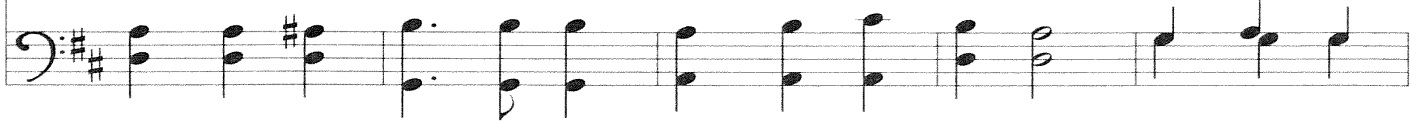
Be the Love of Christ

Postlude

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



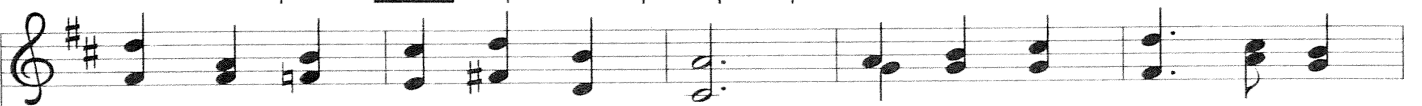
shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



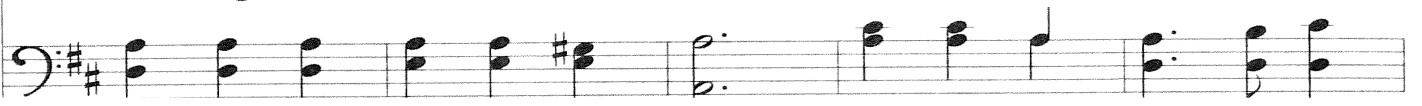
pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

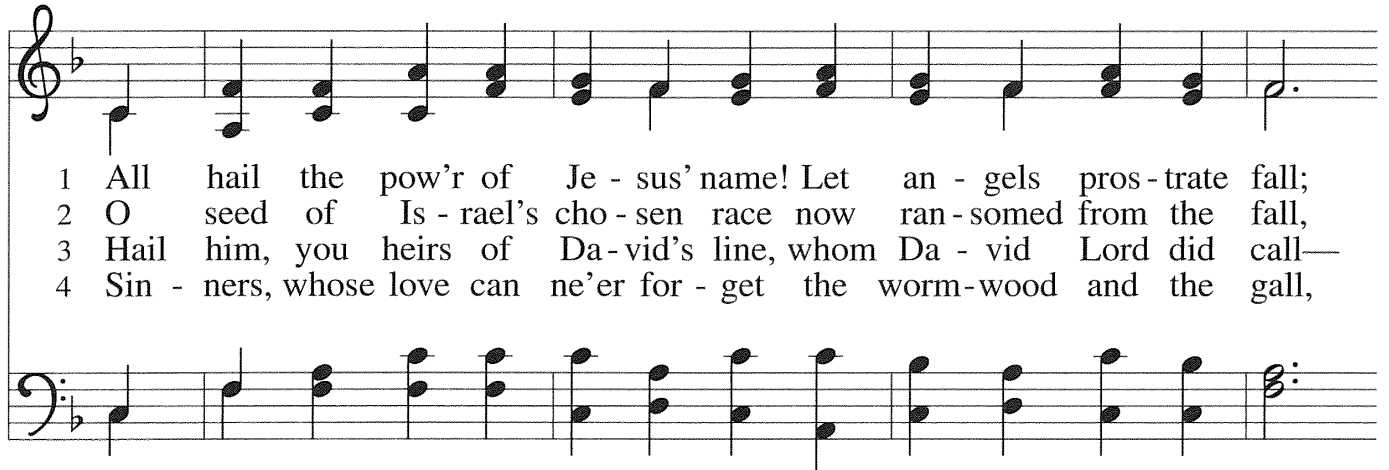


hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

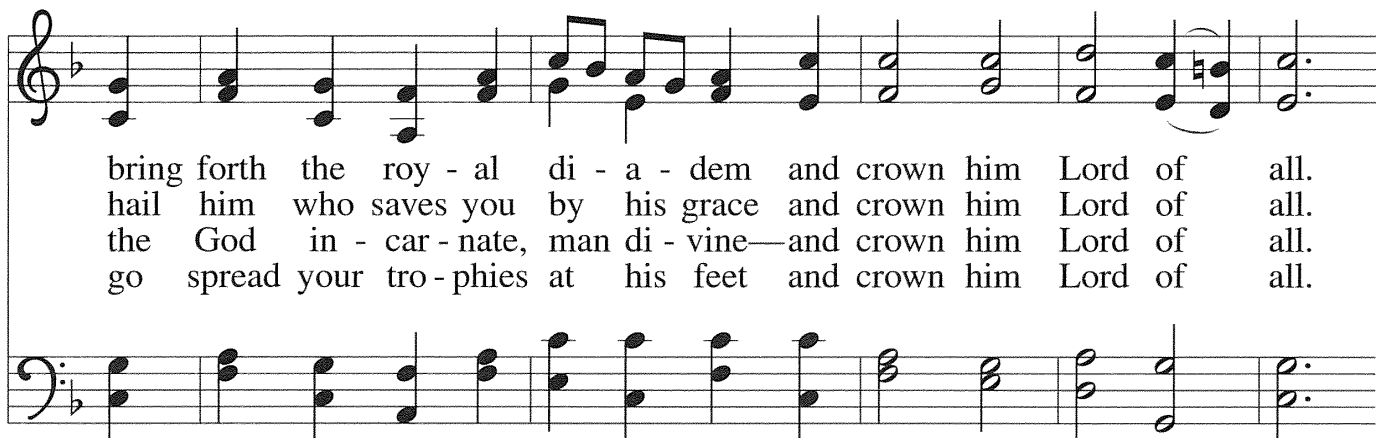


All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

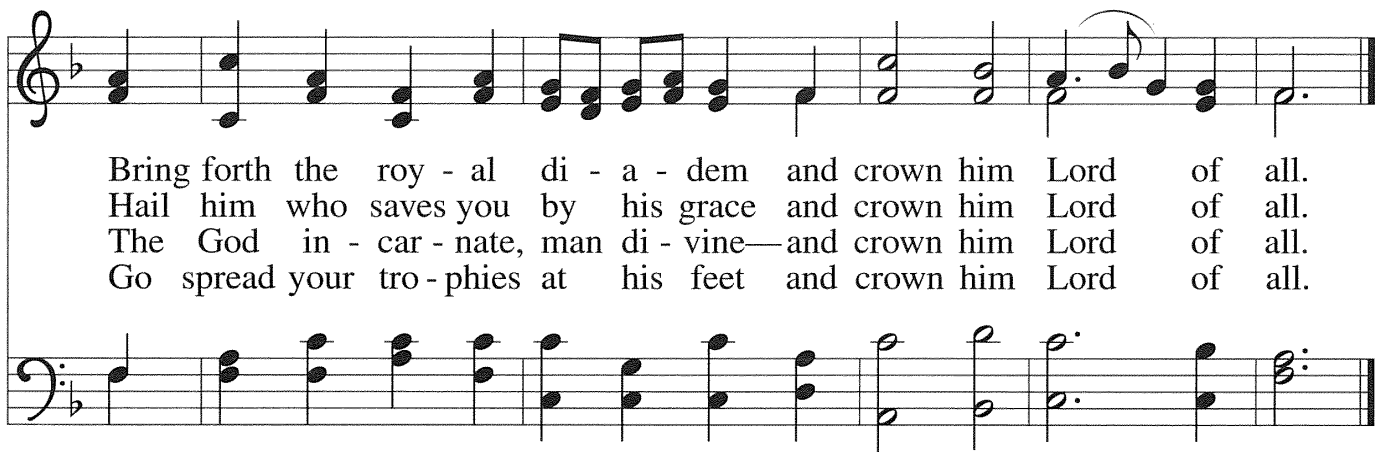
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1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



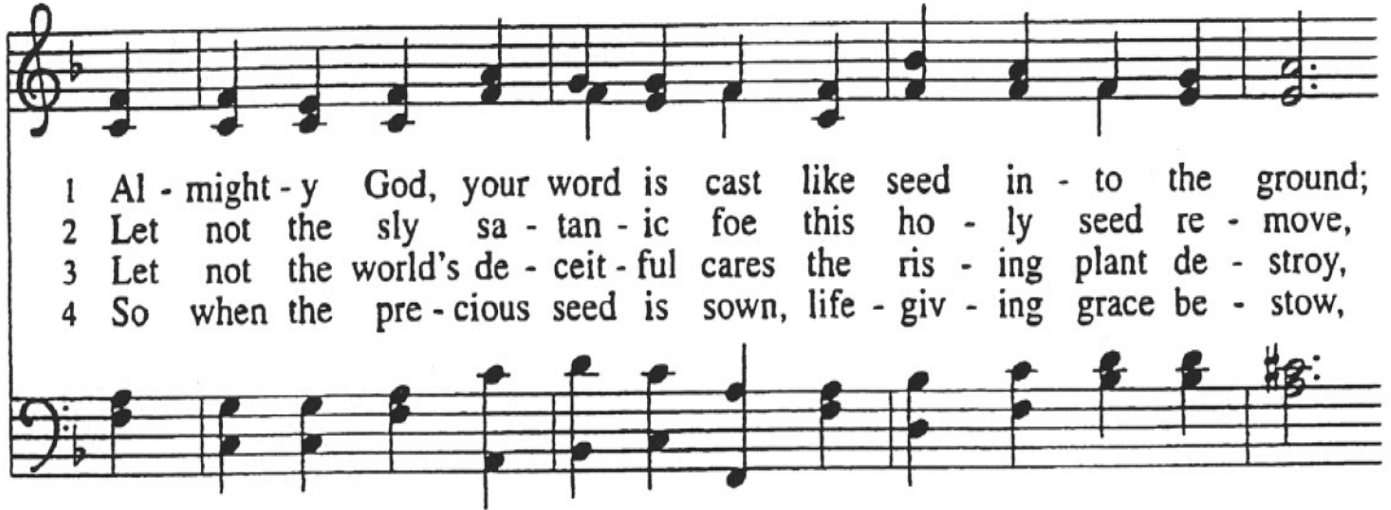
Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

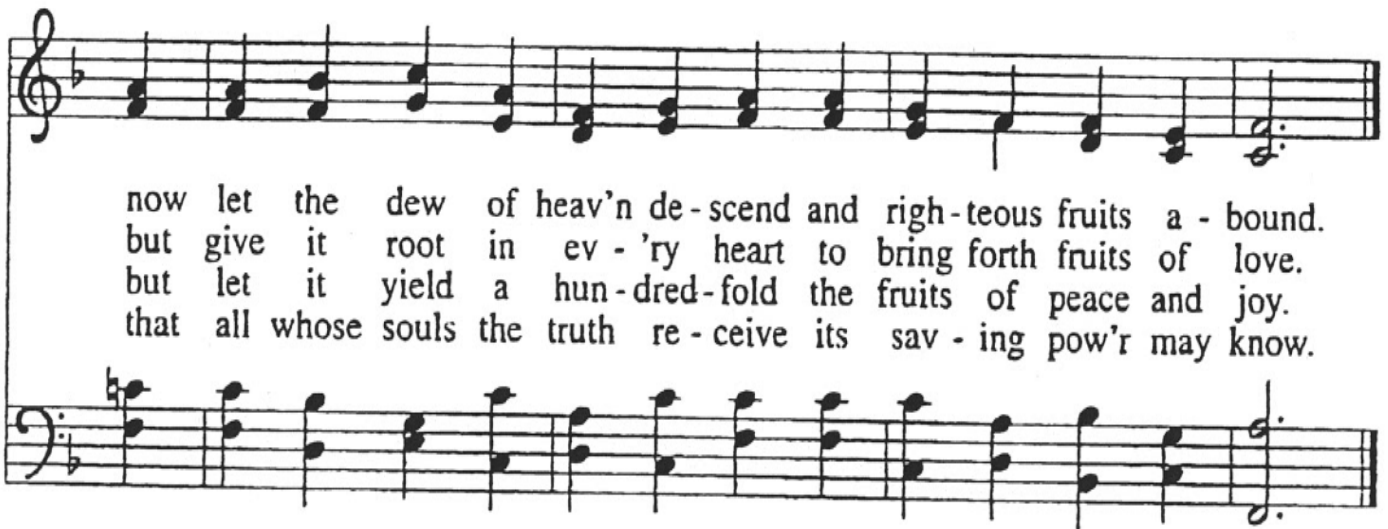
6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

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Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

The Communion

re - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

ew a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

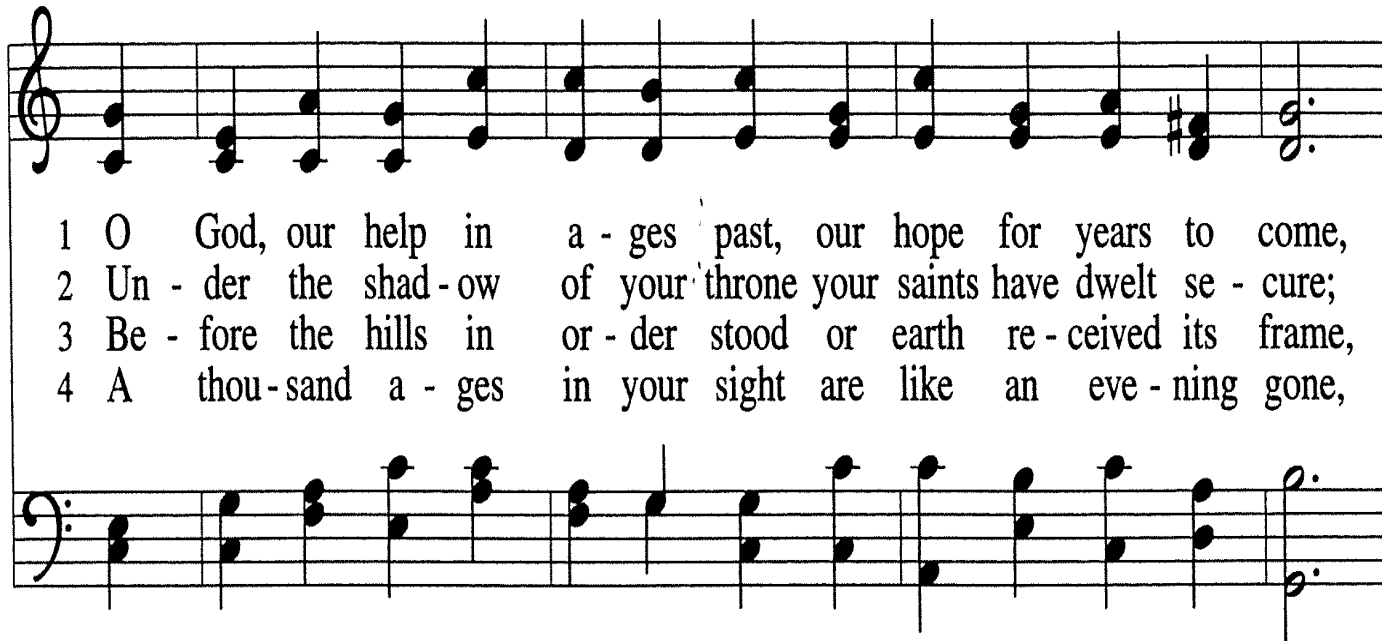
ay from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

oir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

y sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

First Lutheran Church

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Online services posted weekly on website: www.flcwash.church

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God and in honor of Nathaniel Black on his birthday as he serves overseas in the Army, in honor of Mark Black on Father's Day and in loving memory of my husband, Frank Black and my father, Bernard Killen on Father's Day. A donation is made to the Restoration Fund by Kathleen Black.

The Lay Reader is Dennis Schmidt.

Acolytes are TBD.

Counters/Greeters today are L. Coleman and S. Berry.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

The Flower Chart for 2024 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2024. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2024. Please sign up.

Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia.
Please consider this as a call to help others in need.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Shari Kienzle, Susan Westott, baby Isaac Christian, the Pollana family, Sylvia Sunstrum, Fritz Group, Eric Group, Danielle Sherman, Lou Mayne, Judy, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Barbara Mounts, Chiquita Pearson, Tim and Sharon, Judy Coble, Gary Conti, Linnese, Karen and John, Neil Bassi, Phyllis Daniels, Simon Thorp, Josh, Becky Wood, Apollos Yocca, Alex Houck, Bridgette, Rhonda Hendrickson, Ron Erdmann, Belinda, Wilda Durbin, Stacy Carroll, Leann Vitteck, Isabella & family, James, Lori Mauer, Mark Black, Kenny & Josh Carl, John Moore, Sean Shearer, Ed Dupas, Sandy Salerno, Gavazzi family, Janelle Henderson, Rex Gibson, Mike Phipps, Holly Davis, Pat Dupas, Rich Luketich, Gwen Roberts, Judy Dombrowsky, Chris Maust, Firefighter Zach Correll, Bonnie Bird, Judi, Lenny, Sandy, Lawrence Downing, Carol Cancelmi, Jeff Ulanich, Firefighter Adam Wright, Noah Walker, Amy Verderber, Gary Miller, Trevor Rosenthal, Dan & Lisa Heynes, Amanda Laib, Sandra Hebrank, Sonie Rea, George Salvucci, Carol VanSickle, and Larry Marker.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Hope for Ethiopia funds are low, please donate.

Adult Catechism class is on Tuesday at 11 and 7 pm. We are discussing the book we read over the summer. All are welcome. We look forward to you joining us in our discussion.

Adult Sunday School is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

Bell Choir rehearsal is Monday at 6:30 pm. We would love for you to join us. Please see Kris Briggs if you are interested, kkbrgs1@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Our **Dartball team** is looking for more members. Practices are Tuesdays at 7 pm. No experience is needed. Come join us for fun and fellowship. We hope to see you soon. Please contact Dennis Schmidt for information.

Chess Club meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced. We hope that you will join us for fellowship and fun. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – June 16, 2024

“²⁴And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it.”

-Ezekiel 17:24-

It has been said that one way to dispose of an old, tattered bible is to bury it in the earth and plant a tree on top of it. Why? The idea is that the bible was written down on paper—paper that came from a tree. Burying it beneath a new tree allows the tattered pages to be returned to the earth, to nourish the new growing tree. Then, perhaps, that tree might one day be used to make paper for a new bible. And so the cycle comes full circle.

We find countless images of trees throughout Scripture. Here in this passage from Ezekiel we have a few verses that are reminiscent of Jesus' parables. The Lord uses the images of a tree and birds as a way to talk about the Kingdom of God. Birds find refuge in a tree. It's a place of safekeeping for them. Ezekiel speaks of a "sprig of Judah" in verse 22. This image might sound a lot like Isaiah 11: "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." This "shoot" or "sprig" we know to be Jesus Christ.

Jesus grows like any human being, from a tiny infant into an adult. As he becomes an adult, he is sent forth to complete the work and mission God intended for him. As this tree grows and spreads its branches, birds will flock to it, finding refuge in its shade and branches. All the other trees will know that this tree is different. All the other trees will know God and will fear God, acknowledging his power and wisdom.

It is God who brings the low tree high and the high tree low. It is God who dries up the green tree and makes the dry tree flourish. God is the one with the authority and power to make these things happen. It is not up to you and me. God is bigger than the human authorities and power. He always has been, and he always will be. And that's great news for us because God is always ready to restore us to life and salvation with him, finding refuge in him, much like a bird finds safety and refuge in a large tree.

The image of birds in a tree also drums up the image of a family tree. Indeed, we are members of the family of God. May we find refuge and security in Jesus Christ, the source of life and salvation.

