



**+ Third Sunday after Pentecost
June 13, 2021**

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church
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+ Third Sunday after Pentecost Order for Worship

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We would expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus compares the reign of God to 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.

A few notes on precautions and protocols, which apply to everyone regardless of vaccination status, as St. Andrew returns to worship in the sanctuary:

- Name and contact information will be recorded for all worshipers in attendance in case the need for contact tracing should arise.
- Face masks that fully cover both your mouth and nose are required at all times for everyone over the age of two (2) – the only exception being the brief moment of moving mask aside to partake in Holy Communion.
- Outside food and drink are thus not permissible during worship.
- Physical distancing of at least six (6) feet will be observed at all times for people not from your household.
- Singing and corporate prayer spoken in unison will not be a part of the worship service. Both of these practices have been proven to increase the amount of droplets in the air, potentially facilitating the spread of the coronavirus. We will pray and share music during worship, but we ask that you pray/follow along silently or whisper under your mask.
- We ask that everyone use hand sanitizer, either your own or from the bottles throughout the sanctuary, especially prior to Holy Communion.

Prelude

Welcome

Gathering

Please rise as you are able.

A Litany of Remembrance for the Emanuel Nine

P: We join with Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in remembering the nine children of God who were shot and killed on June 17, 2015:

The Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney

The Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons

Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd

The Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton

The Rev. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson

Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders

The Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor

Susie Jackson

Ethel Lee Lance,

and we remember those who survived that day.

C: We remember.

P: We remember that this faithful group of God's people lovingly welcomed a stranger into their Bible study— where they gathered to sing, to pray, to study the word of God.

C: We remember.

P: We pray for the continual presence of God's peace;

may it comfort and surround the families, friends, and congregation of the nine who were slain.

C: We remember.

P: We pray for the African Methodist Episcopal Church,

its senior bishop, The Rev. Adam J. Richardson, Jr., and its episcopal leaders.

We pray for the community of Charleston and all who continue to grieve—

trusting that God will continue to unite us in the work to end racism and white supremacy.

C: We remember.

P: We remember the legacy of the Rev. Pinckney and his fight for racial justice for his parishioners and his community.

Let us not only be moved by emotion but also be moved toward action.

C: We remember.

P: We call on the United States to remember and confront its history of racial injustice. We call our churches to acknowledge the crimes committed against humanity in the name of Christ: the land theft from and genocide of indigenous peoples and the enslavement of the black people whose bodies built this nation.

C: We remember.

P: We remember the faith leaders whose lives are a living witness to black liberation and womanist theology in the struggle for black freedom: Bishop Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, Sojourner Truth, Denmark Vesey, Jehu Jones, Daniel Payne, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, James Cone, and Katie Geneva Cannon.

C: We remember.

P: As we remember, Living God, may we be re-membered as the Body of Christ, connected to one another, in relationship with one another, and committed to the work you call us to do in the name of Jesus and by the power of his renewing Spirit.

C: Amen.

*We ask that those present in the church sanctuary refrain from singing the hymns aloud.
The assembly gathered from afar is encouraged to sing.*

Gathering Hymn

**Gather Us In
v. 2-3**

ELW 532

**2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.**

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.**

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

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Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

First Reading – Ezekiel 17: 22-24

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17

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 the Lord. 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.

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!

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation (*Spoken*)

P: Alleluia. Welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. Alleluia.

Gospel – Mark 4: 26-34

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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. 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 the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please rise as you are able.

**Hymn of the Day Bring Forth the Kingdom *Hymnal Supplement 821*
v. 3**

**3 You are the seed of the Word, O people:
 Bring forth the kingdom of God!
 Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
 Grow in the kingdom of God! *Refrain***

**R Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
 Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
 Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
 Bring forth the City of God!**

Text: Matthew 5: 13-15; Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text and music © GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A722139.

Prayers of the People

P: With confidence in God’s care and grace and the help of the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition

P: God of mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Please be seated while the table is being prepared.

We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.

*An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary for those who would like to offer gifts
as you leave worship today.*

Meal

Please rise as you are able.

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing.
Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

C: Amen.

Dialogue

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.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...
... and join their unending hymn.

Sanctus

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord ...
... be all honor and glory, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
**C: Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

Fraction and Invitation

Agnus Dei / Lamb of God

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Please be seated.

Holy Communion

- *For Holy Communion, we will not be kneeling at the altar rail due to the need for physical distancing.*
- *At the invitation of the usher, worshipers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *The Communion bread/wafer is in small cups on the left side of the altar table as you come forward. Cups of wine (lighter liquid) and grape juice (darker liquid) are on your right.*
- *A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament, following physical distancing guidelines.*
- *Everyone is asked to wait until you return to your place to consume the wafer and wine/grape juice, and then promptly replace your mask.*
- *Worshipers can place the paper cups in the receptacle by the door at the back of the sanctuary as they leave through the Centre and Morewood Ave. vestibule.*

Hymn during Holy Communion

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
v. 1-2, 4

ELW 693

- 1 Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**
- 2 All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto God's praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,**

**then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!**

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When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.

Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Prayer

P: Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

Benediction

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Abbreviations

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

L: Lector

C: Congregation

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal

Those serving in worship today

Prelude and Hymnody
Director of Faith Formation
Presiding Minister

Jeff Denlinger, Piano
Christopher Atwood
Pastor Ross Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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