

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
Sunday, June 13, 2021
Third Sunday of Pentecost

Introduction

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.

Prelude **Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing** **arr. Larry Shackley**
Tune: NETTLETON, John W. Keith's Repository of Sacred Music

Welcome

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,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✙ the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

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.

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:26-34

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. The gospel of the Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

Pastor Tess Panamarow

Hymn of the Day We Walk By Faith vs. 1-3

ELW 635

- 1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
- 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
- 3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen

Offering

Prayers of Intercession

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. We pray for our companion Synod in Magulilwa, Tanzania, the China service Ventures, and all Christian mission across the world. 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, mercy and love, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty, homelessness, and discrimination. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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**Benediction**

The blessing of God,

Who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

✠ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude God, Whose Almighty Word

Tune: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini

arr. Larry Shackley