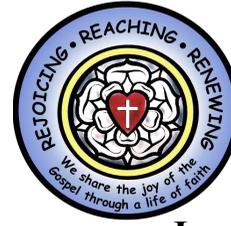


The Mustard-Seed

Help the bird get to the top of the tree.



Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven was like a mustard seed. A mustard seed is the smallest of seeds, but when a man planted that seed in the ground it grew into a great tree. That mustard tree made a safe place for all the birds to come, rest and build nests. Let Jesus plant a seed of love in your heart which can grow and touch others.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

June 16, 2024 + The Fourth 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.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.



Happy Father's Day!



The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

“Turn to me and be saved,” says the Lord.

“For I am God and there is no other.”

**If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
 will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Today we consider the mighty mercy of God,
 and the often surprising ways in which God makes his mercy known.

(Silence for confession and self-examination.)

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**Our vision is shortsighted, our ability limited,
 our lives beclouded by disobedience.**

Without the power of your grace, we perish.

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.**

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son to die for us;

for his sake, God forgives us all our sins.

To those who believe in Jesus Christ,

God gives the power to become children of God

and bestows on them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

God’s strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Amen.

The Mustard-Seed
Matthew 13: 31, Mark 4: 30-32, Luke 13: 18-19

Look carefully at the words below. Each of these has been hidden in the word search.
 Words can be on the horizontal, diagonal, backwards, forwards, up and down.

PRODUCING	GREATEST	BRANCHES	SMALLEST	MUSTARD	SPRINGS
SHELTER	PLANTED	SHADOW	GARDEN	FIELD	BIRDS
FOWLS	LODGE	LARGE	GRAIN	GROWN	SHADE
EARTH	ROOST	LEAST	SHRUB	HERBS	SOWED
TREE	TINY	NEST	SEED	AIR	MAN

Z X X

N L Q E Q R D P A

Q P F O A O I R E W Y S N

D O G R D G S T S H J X O A

W L T E I G N G M E R T Z W J G

L X H E E G A E R N X H Q S W E W D

S V R T E I L N R B N I G C O E T D N H

Z R D R S P F E I A H R R D N S N W D S

E T R B A T J M C E E A P O A O M D

D P A L E X Z A U H R O S R R R Y

I Y A E T K L T O S D R B G L I B S T

G V N H H X S E V A T D O B S B I D I S

U R S M P S S U M O C N O R M U E N E P

O A B N T Z M O E Q P E Y R P

H A I U E M U S C J I

M Y N R D Y K S T X

H R X S G E M

S A A N A

I G L

P L J

E E N

S G W A

T R K O W P

C A V S I Z V F

L L S L L L

Sending Song *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* #551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -

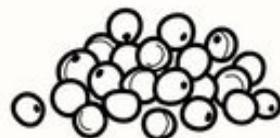


to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



MUSTARD SEEDS

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Gathering Song *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast* #516



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.

Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt.; Music: J. Day, Psalter, 1562
 Public Domain

Opening Litany

O Lord above, you have planted the seed of your love in us.
**May your love in us continue to grow stronger
 with each passing day.**

O Lord above, you have planted the seed of your word in us.
**May our understanding of your Scriptures
 grow deeper with each passing day.**

O Lord above, you have showered us with your grace.
**May your grace continue to enrich us and restore us
 with each passing day.**

O Lord above, you have given us the ability to bear fruit.
May we continue to bear fruit that is pleasing to you.

Apostolic Greeting

The blessing of the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the glorious love bestowed by the + Son,
 and the power of the promised Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Father, I Adore You

W&P #37



1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
3 Spir - it,



fore you; how I love you.

Text and music © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. Capitol Christian Music Group
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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

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.

Father's Day Litany

Blessing and honor to our God of love.

Praise the Lord who gives us the men we have known in our lives.

Thanks be to God,
for blessing us with fathers, grandfathers, and uncles.

Praise be to God,
**for sending us loving foster fathers, adopted uncles,
and other men who have cared for us.**

Glory to God,
**for our men: our husbands, our sons, our brothers,
our friends, and our fathers.**



fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000 © 1970 Hope Publishing Company
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Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
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Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

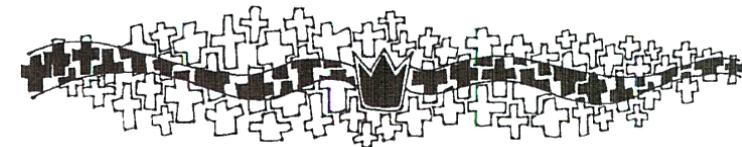
Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

May you go as God's people who are blessed to be a blessing.
May you go in the name of Jesus to touch and heal the hurt around us.
May you go with a strong presence of God's Holy Spirit
to be light and love to all the world.
May you go in the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**





We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

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 Music: Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812-1896; arr. hymnal version
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Distribution Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation

#679



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

Praise God for them all,
for the name of God is glorified through their lives.

Uphold them with your strength.
Guide them with your wisdom.

Renew them in your grace.
Restore them in your compassion.

God bless all godly men,
for they show us Christ.

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept)*

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit on all fathers.

Grant to them keen insight into their children's needs.

Help them to be faithful examples of truth and love.

Softening their hearts so that they might hear their children's cries.

Strengthen their resolve to be men of commitment and faith.

In times of sorrow and disappointment

let them know that you are by their side.

In times of doubt and confusion show them the way.

In times of happiness and joy

let them see your face in all that is good and right and true.

In all times sustain them

with the knowledge that they are your beloved children.

We ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

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.

A reading from Ezekiel.

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.

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

Psalm 92:1-4,12-15

Let us read the Psalm responsively.

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

⁴For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord; and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.

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

¹³Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God;

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁵that they may show how upright the Lord is, my rock, in whom there is no injustice.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

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 Second Corinthians.

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 him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear

Distribution Hymn

As Rain from the Clouds

#508



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.

Hymn continues on the next page.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.
 Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together 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.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

Family of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:
The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, 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. ¹²We 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. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 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!

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

Alleluia Verse

Family of God

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! The Lord our God be
 blessed! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your Word brings righ - teous-ness. With
 all your works, we praise you! Ex - alt your Name for - ev - er! Al - le -
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing al - le - lu - ia!

Holy 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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

²⁶He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and 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.**

Children's Time

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Faith of Our Fathers

#812



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
2 The mar - tyrs, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in



high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea;

within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day;

across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;

beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,

we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

✠ MEAL ✠

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by
his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Family of God

fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,

Refrain

when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.

ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.
Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888; James G. Walton, 1821-1905,
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Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 the People

P We come before the triune God
to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

(A brief silence is kept.)

A Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship.
Guide the church in listening to and interpreting
your message of grace for this time and place in history.
In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.
Sustain the holy rhythms of creation:
days and seasons, hibernation and activity,
phases of the moon and tides of the sea.
Let these patterns assure us of your constancy.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up
all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate.
As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry
from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination
toward anger and violence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience
for the fulfillment of your healing promises *especially*..
Grant perseverance to people doing physical & occupational therapy,
people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A As you have loved us, so let us love one another.
Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers,
and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children.
Where these relationships are strained or broken,
bring your comfort and peace.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A With gratitude,
we remember all the saints who are now at home with you.
Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts,
that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid,
through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Your Vineyards, O Lord

Family of God

The musical score is written for a single voice part in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Your vine - yards, O Lord, may they
(2.) gath - er the hopes and the
bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your
dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these
bless - ing, we pray. And gath - er a har - vest from
of - f'rings we bring. Pre - side at our ta - ble, and
what you have sown, That we may be fed with the
grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - ised
bread of life. 2. Now come. A - men.