



WITH WHAT CAN WE COMPARE THE

Kingdom of God?

Mark 4:30



Zion Lutheran Church
Traditional Worship Service
June 13, 2021

WELCOME

INTROIT: *Psalm 92:12–15*; antiphon: v. 1

PASTOR: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High. The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PASTOR: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

**All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.**

**Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, on this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.**

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

ALL: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

KYRIE

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

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

ALL: Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

All: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father;

We worship You, we give You thanks,

We praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world

Have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father;

Receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One,

You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

With the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

PASTOR: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST READING: *Ezekiel 17:22-24*

Thus says the Lord God: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And 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."

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON: *2 Corinthians 5:1-10*

We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND FOR THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL.

PASTOR: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

ALL: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 4:26-34*

[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

PASTOR: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED (spoken in unison)

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

SERMON

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly Thine.

While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread, be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed by 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.

BENEDICTION

PASTOR: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

All: Amen.

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are thine!