

# Pentecost 4

The Lord Grows His Kingdom.



FOR WE WALK BY FAITH

NOT BY SIGHT

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

June 20, 2021

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

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**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.


## **☞ Prayer before worship**

Grant us, O Lord, to live this day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain, that reaching the evening victorious over all temptation, we may praise you, the eternal God, for you govern all things and are praised now and forever. Amen.

WORSHIP AND PRAISE

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## Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty;  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee;  
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed;  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en;  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee;

Zi - on, let me en - ter there, Where my  
 Come thou al - so un - to me. Where we  
 Here thy seed is du - ly sown. Let my  
 Let me keep thy gift di - vine, How - so -  
 Let thy will be done in - deed. May I

soul in joy - ful du - ty Waits for him who  
 find thee and a - dore thee, There a heav'n on  
 soul, where it is plant - ed, Bring forth pre - cious  
 e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en; May thy Word still  
 un - dis - turbed draw near thee While thou dost thy

an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed is this  
 earth must be. To my heart, oh, en - ter  
 sheaves a - lone, So that all I hear may  
 o'er me shine As my guid - ing star through  
 peo - ple feed. Here of life the foun - tain

place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!  
 thou; Let it be thy tem - ple now!  
 be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 life, As my com - fort in all strife.  
 flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: UNSER HERRSCHER (87 87 77) Joachim Neander, 1650–80, alt.

## STAND

### INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

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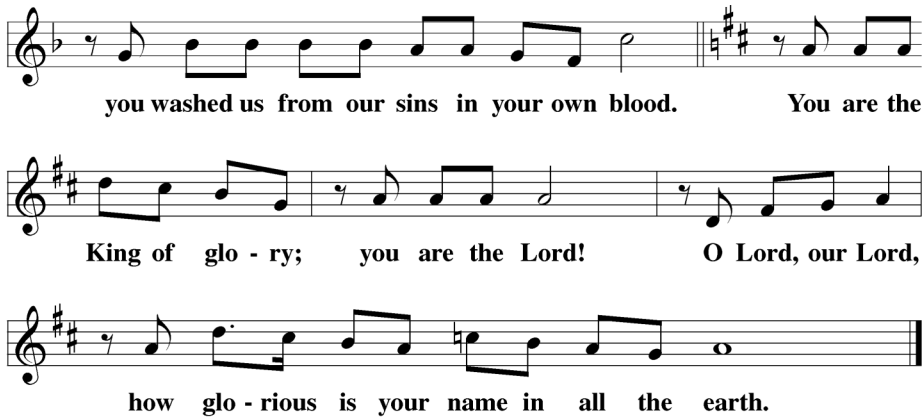
*www.wartburgproject.org*

*Lectionary listings from Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.*

## O LORD, OUR LORD

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes). The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to one flat (Bb).

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in  
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,  
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;  
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and  
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,  
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.  
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,  
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;



## PRAYER OF THE DAY



**BE SEATED**

## THE WORD



### FIRST LESSON

***Ezekiel 17:22-24***

<sup>22</sup>This is what the LORD God says. I myself will take part of the tip of the cedar and plant it. From the topmost of its shoots I will pluck off a tender sprig, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it. It will produce branches, bear fruit, and become a magnificent cedar. Flying birds of every kind will live under it. In the shelter of its branches they will nest. <sup>24</sup>Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, the LORD, bring down the high tree and raise up the low tree, that I make the green tree dry up, and I make the dried-up tree blossom. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will carry it out.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

## PSALM 92

### *Refrain*



Lord, let your mer-cy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

### *Psalm tone*



How great are your works, O LORD,\*  
how profound your thoughts!

The senseless man does not know,\*  
fools do not understand,

that though the wicked spring up like grass\*  
and all evildoers flourish,

they will be forever destroyed.\*  
But you, O LORD, are exalted forever.

### *Refrain*

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,\*  
they will flourish in the courts of our God.

They will still bear fruit in old age,\*  
they will stay fresh and green,

proclaiming, "The LORD is upright,\*  
he is my rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

**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.**

### *Refrain*

*Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). All rights reserved. Used by permis-*





## SECOND LESSON

## 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Now we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal home in heaven, which is not made by human hands. <sup>2</sup>In fact, the reason we groan is that we long to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven. <sup>3</sup>If we do indeed put it on, we will certainly not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>To be sure, while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>Now the one who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as the down payment.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>But we are confident and would much prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>And for this reason we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home or away. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he did while in the body, whether good or bad.

### VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy.  
Alleluia. (Psalm 132:9)



## GOSPEL

**Mark 4:26-34**

<sup>26</sup>He said, "The kingdom of God is like this: A man scatters seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and while he sleeps and rises, night and day, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The ground produces fruit on its own: first the blade, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>When the crop is ready, he swings the sickle without delay, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>Then he said, "To what should we compare the kingdom of God? Or with what parable may we picture it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which when sown on the ground is one of the smallest of all the seeds planted in the ground. <sup>32</sup>Yet when it is planted, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches so that the birds of the sky can nest under its shade."

<sup>33</sup>With many similar parables he continued to speak the word to them, as much as they were able to hear. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

PENTECOST

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## Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's  
2 O Source of light, our Coun - sel - or, The Fa -  
3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high In an -  
4 Im - mor - tal hon - or, end - less fame, At - tend



foun - da - tions first were laid, Come, vis - it  
ther's help to us as - sure. Come down, as  
swer to our ear - nest cry. Help us e -  
th' al - might - y Fa - ther's name; The Sav - ior -



ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come, pour your joys on  
prom - ised, with your fire, And hearts with heav'n - ly  
ter - nal truths re - ceive And prac - tice all that  
Son be glo - ri - fied, Who for all hu - man -



hu - man-kind. From sin and sor - row set us  
love in - spire. Your sa - cred, heal - ing mes - sage  
we be - lieve. Give us your wis - dom that we  
kind has died; And e - qual ad - o - ra - tion



free; May we your liv - ing tem - ples be.  
bring To sanc - ti - fy us when we sing.  
see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.  
rise To you, O Spir - it, in the skies.

Text: attr. Rhabanus Maurus, 776–856, abr.; tr. John Dryden, 1631–1700, alt.

Tune: ALL EHR UND LOB (88 88 88) *Gesangbuch . . . Psalmen, Geistliche Lieder*, Strassburg, 1541, alt.

**BE SEATED**

**SERMON:** 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

**FAITH PUTS EVERYTHING INTO PERSPECTIVE**

- I. We are prepared
- II. We are confident

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M:** Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

**C:** **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

**M:** Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

**C:** **Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M:** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**M:** Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

# THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

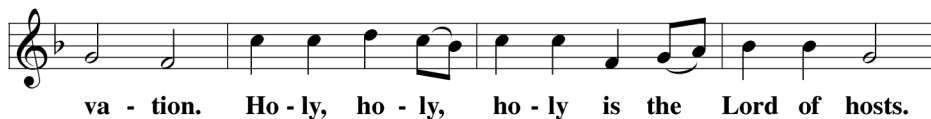
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

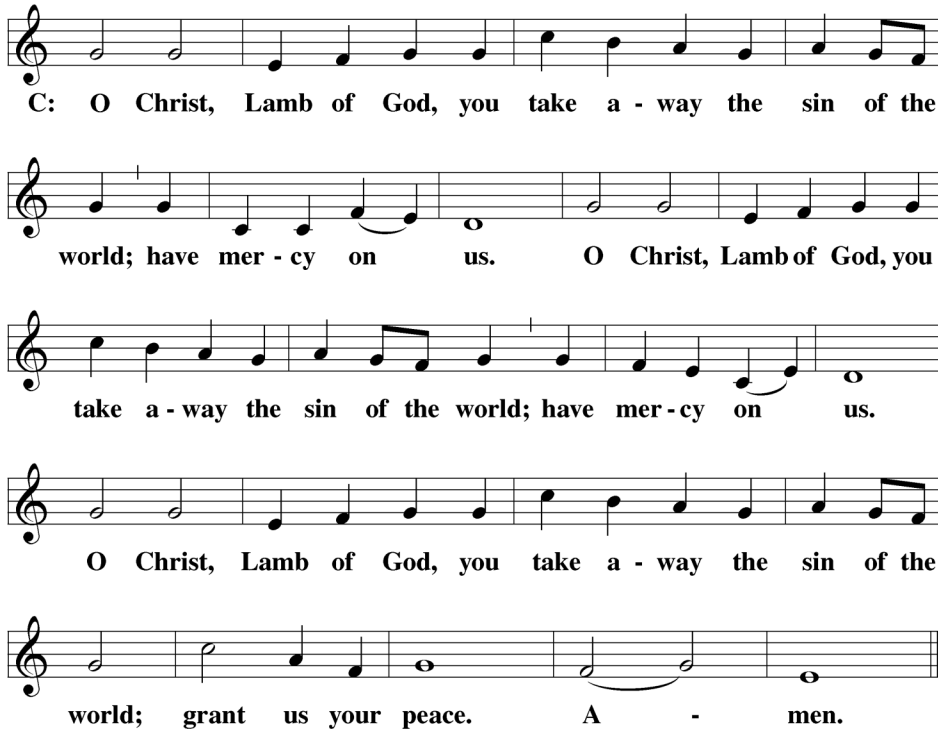
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

**BE SEATED**

## DISTRIBUTION

*Thank you for Respecting our Communion Practice. The Bible teaches that partaking of the body and blood of Christ is a special assurance of forgiveness to penitent believers in Christ. It is also an expression of our oneness in the doctrines we teach and believe. Christ wants us to administer this blessed sacrament responsibly. We would ask that if you are not a communicant member of St. Paul's Lutheran and desire the sacrament, please kindly speak with the pastor before the service.*





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Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con -  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing, To God ev - er -  
fess - ing, The peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take  
liv - ing, The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will  
leave. The sup - per is end - ed; Oh, be now ex -  
face. Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er  
tend - ed The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be -  
car - ing, Em - brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and  
lieve. The seed of his teach - ing, Re - cep -  
race. With your feast you feed us; With your  
tive souls reach - ing, Shall blos - som in ac - tion for  
light now lead us; U - nite us as one in this  
God and for all. His grace did in - vite us; His  
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing With  
love shall u - nite us To work for God's  
praise and thanks - giv - ing To Give hon - or to  
king - dom and an - swer his call.  
Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, b. 1916, alt. © 1964 World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL, [www.wlpmusic.com](http://www.wlpmusic.com).  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: THE ASH GROVE (66 11 66 11 D) Welsh folk tune.

# THANKSGIVING



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



#### CLOSE OF SERVICE

# 323

## Almighty Father, Bless the Word

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through your  
2 We praise you for the means of grace As home - ward

grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious seed  
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who wor -

take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit.  
shipped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.

Text: Scandinavian hymn; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnary*, Decorah, 1913, alt.

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH (LM) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.