

you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows

The kingdom of God... is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed



and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches

that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.

M a r k 4 : 3 0 - 3 2

**June 13, 2021**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
38801 Blacow Road  
Fremont, CA 94536  
Church: (510) 793-6285

June 13, 2021  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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## GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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[Click here for a video of the service.](#)

**PRELUDE . . .** *“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”*

**WELCOME**

**SINGING BOWL**

**INVOCATION**

*P: We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.*

**All: God's love fills our hearts to overflowing with laughter.**

*P: We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain.*

**All: God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.**

*P: We gather together, in God's presence, to worship God in faith and truth.*

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Called to be branches in Christ's body,

**All: we yearn to be connected to the vine.**

L: Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God's creatures,

**All: we search for places to plant the seeds of faith.**

L: Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world's painful questions,

**All: we seek God's nurturing presence.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross.

*P: Jesus Christ, we remember with gratitude those people who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives.*

Silence for Reflection

*P: Above all, we recognize how you have blessed our lives with the gift of the Holy Spirit*

**All: so that our faith has miraculously and mysteriously grown.**

*P: We confess the times we fail to involve ourselves in planting any seeds of faith in the lives of others;*

**All: the times when our personal agendas become more important than yours;**

*P: the times when we have denied others the opportunity to expand their faith through our lack of interest or involvement;*

**All: the times when our lives become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised.**

*P: Jesus Christ, we know that when we become disconnected from you, our lives becomes parched and unfruitful and our faith becomes stunted and dry.*

**All: Bless and renew our lives, we pray, so that we remain connected to you at all times and in all places, strengthening our faith to expand and, growing strongly and vigorously, to bear the fruit of your mercy, your love, your undying life. Amen.**

## LITANY

L: Holy One: you anoint us with living water, so we may go to serve the world in these troubled days.

**All: You open our eyes so we will see everyone as our sisters and brothers.**

L: Seed Planter: you place faith deep within us, so we can bear witness to your just and loving kingdom.

**All: Your love regulates our hearts, so we can welcome all in your name.**

L: Gentle Spirit: when we cannot see the way, you take us by the hand so we can step forward, in faith, into the kingdom.

**All: You fill us with hope, so we can sing God's joy all of our days.**

L: God in Community, Holy in One,

**All: hear us as we pray.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world.

**All: 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.**

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## GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Holy One, open our hearts to your loving Spirit. Incline our ears to the truth of your scriptures.

**All: Renew our lives in thanksgiving and praise. Amen.**

## READING . . . *Ezekiel 17:22-24*

Thus 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.  
On 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.  
All 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.

**GOSPEL . . . *Mark 4:26-34***

[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet 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.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Reader: People of God, do you feel the movement of the Holy Spirit?

**All: Our hearts have been broken open to receive the grace of God.**

Reader: People of God, what do you hear?

**All: We hear Christ calling us to follow and to be faithful.**

Reader: People of God, will you renew your lives in the word of God?

**All: We will, with thanksgiving and praise; and we will sing the song of God.**

Reader: Praise be to God!

**All: Praise be to Christ!**

**CHILDREN'S TIME . . .** *Pastor Tim*

**HOMILY . . .** *Pastor Tim*

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

L: With grateful hearts, let us share a portion of the bounty God has given us.

**All: We do so as an act of faith, and in support of God's work in this congregation and the world.**

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

L: Almighty Creator, you have blessed us with abundant life and steadfast love.

**All: We offer these gifts to you, asking that your Holy Spirit will bless them and use them to shower grace and love upon our siblings, both near and far. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

L: Let us come before the triune God in prayer. 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: 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 and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

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

**All: 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.**

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GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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**BENEDICTION**

*P: Go forth to proclaim the good news that we are new creations in Christ Jesus.*

**All: As seeds planted by God, we go to spread God's gifts of love and hope.**

*P: Go forth to live the good news that we live in a time of new beginnings.*

**All: As plantings of the Lord, we go to share God's gifts of mercy and grace.**

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE . . . "Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word"**

**SINGING BOWL**

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Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist & Reader: Neal & Rene Bierbaum

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

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