



*“Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap
nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds
them.”*

- Matthew 6:26a

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
3rd Sunday after Pentecost – June 9, 2024**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request cards in each pew. They will be collected during the hymn of the day and offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*GATHERING SONG *Lead Me, Guide Me* (ELW 768)

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
In God's goodness, we are free to claim the gift of God's mercy:
we are freed and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Amen.

***Canticle of Praise *Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)**

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Direct us, Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from Numbers.

²²The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²³Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

²⁴The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

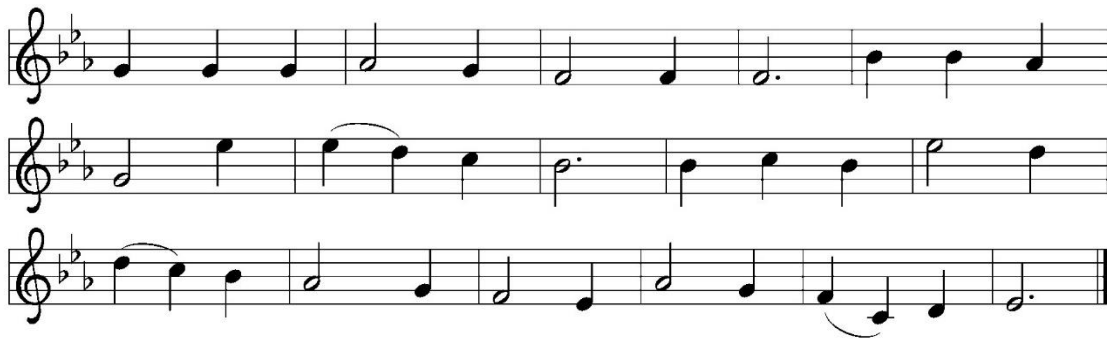
²⁶the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

²⁷So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 130



1. Out of the depths we call to you,
Lord, hear our voices, heed our prayer;
Look with compassion on our plea,
Weigh our petition, Lord, with care.
2. For if you note each sinful deed, Lord,
who could stand when you appeared?
With you forgiveness will be found,
And therefore, Lord, you shall be feared.

4. O Israel, wait upon the Lord,
For with the Lord is mercy found;
Who pardons us of all our sin,
In whom true liberty abounds.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹³Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

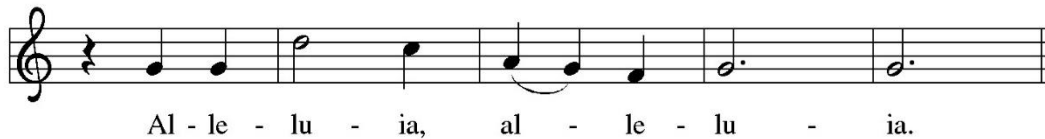
¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

^{5:1}For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:25-33**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

GRADUATE RECOGNITION AND BLESSING

We are delighted to honor you in your graduations from college and high school. We are proud of you! It is our privilege to affirm you as a member of this congregation. You each have completed an important phase of your life and you are entering another.

Alaina, Victoria, Emily, and Lindsey, I ask you to affirm your commitment to a life of faith in the body of Christ.

As you celebrate your achievements and prepare for your new endeavors, do you thank God for the many ways your faith has been and will be your strength and guide?

Response: **With God’s help, I do.**

As you consider the next steps of your journey of life, do you acknowledge God going with you, before you, behind you, below you, above you, and within you?

Response: **With God’s help, I do.**

As you make choices about your new endeavors, will you offer your gifts to the world as part of the body of Christ and welcome the support of a family of faith?

Response: **With God’s help, I will.**

**The assembly stands.*

People of St. John: Do you claim these graduates as siblings in Christ, called to ministry according to their talents?

In God's love, we claim her.

As their home congregation, do you promise to support them, take an interest in their futures, be with them in their celebration and sadness, and welcome them whenever they return to St John?

In God's love, we support them.

Do you promise to faithfully pray for Alaina, Victoria, Emily, and Lindsey, placing their futures into God's loving hands as they make their choices?

In God's love, we pray for them.

Let us pray. Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially today for the milestones that Alaina, Victoria, Emily, and Lindsey have attained. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they know your love in all the experiences they have.

Bless those who have raised them and nourished them in Christian faith. Give them strength in your holy presence, and give them many joyful reunions with Alaina, Victoria, Emily, and Lindsey. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

The leader addresses the graduates and the assembly.

As you go out into the world, go in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *Praise Ye the Lord (ELW 872) (Blue prayer cards are collected)



Praise ye the Lord, hal-le-lu-jah! Ev-'ry-bod-y, praise the Lord.



1 Praise God with the sound of the trum - pet;
 2 Praise God with ho - ly cym - bals;
 3 Praise God in the ho - ly tem - ple;
 4 Praise God on top of the moun - tains;



praise God with the lute and the harp;
 praise God with strings and with pipes;
 praise God for al - might - y deeds;
 praise God both day and night;



praise God with the tim - brel and danc - ing;
 praise God with clash - ing cym - bals;
 praise God for those boun - ti - ful mer - cies;
 praise God down in the low val - leys;



praise God wher - ev - er you are.
 praise God with all of your might.
 for God ful - fills our needs.
 praise God be - cause it's all right.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come 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 INTERCESSION**

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

A brief silence.

You reawaken our hearts to your mercy. We give you thanks for renewers of the church in every age. Enliven the creativity and persistence of all seeking to transform the church into a closer vision of your beloved community. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your presence is revealed in the shade of trees, the growth of seeds into flowers, and in the blessing of plants granting food in their right season. Heal lands scarred by deforestation, pollution, or infestation. Teach us to cultivate the earth with respect and reverence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Our nations and communities are divided, O God. Teach us again to listen with curiosity and mercy, even in disagreement. Grant us the humility to acknowledge our hardness of heart and make us bold in modeling cooperation for the sake of the common good. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Hear the prayers of all who cry out to you from the depths of fear, despair, or hopelessness especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. With haste, rescue victims of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse, and bless organizations and individuals who work on their behalf. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Grant wisdom and clarity to all who are in seasons of discernment and transition: high school graduates preparing for first jobs or new educational journeys, those who are shifting careers, and those who are navigating changes in their relationships. Accompany them with your peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Praise to you for our ancestors in faith who believed, spoke, and lived in you. Give us confidence that as Jesus was raised, so we too will be raised, with all the saints, into your everlasting presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of grace, you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We lift now the prayers that are on the hearts and minds of this congregation this day (*blue prayer cards are read*). Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *Alleluia! Voices Raise* (ELW 828)

Rise on 5th verse



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Voic - es raise, sound - ing God Al -
2 Now come all be - fore God's face, in this cho - rus
3 Let, in praise of Christ, the sound run a nev - er -
4 So this huge wide orb we see shall one choir, one
5 Thus our song shall o - ver - climb all the bounds of



might - y's praise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
take your place. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
end - ing round, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
tem - ple be. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
space and time. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Hith - er bring in one con - sent heart and voice and in - stru -
And a - mid the mor - tal throng, be you mas - ters of the
that our songs of praise may be ev - er - last - ing, as is
In the Ho - ly Spir - it one, we will sing what God has
Al - le - lu - ia! Voic - es raise, sound - ing God Al - might - y's



ment. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
song. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
he. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
done. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
praise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things.

Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us,

that the world may be fed with your love,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*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.

It is indeed right and salutary
that we should at all times and in all places
offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord,
through Christ our Lord;
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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are holy, almighty and merciful God, and great is your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will
and accomplished our salvation.

To explain God's love, to show it and share it,
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, he 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, therefore, his good command,
his life-giving Passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,
we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought, but as we are able;
and we ask you to accept our praise and thanksgiving,
and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine;
that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son
may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be made holy,
and have our place with all your saints.

All blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God,
through Jesus Christ, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
**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**

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



The image shows five staves of musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. The music is written in a single treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The second staff continues with 'world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you'. The third staff continues with 'take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.'. The fourth staff begins with 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The fifth and final staff concludes with 'world; grant us peace, grant us peace.' The music ends with a double bar line.

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 OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Oh, Worship the King* (ELW 842)



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,



our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,



pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.

Amen

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed
bless, keep, and sustain you † now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me* (ELW 860)**



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

***DISMISSAL**

[Jesus said,] "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

Mark 16:15

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar today are from Jenet Sanka in memory of her parents, Virginia and John Closshey and in memory of her in-laws, Josephine and George Senka.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Valerie Cardinal

Acolyte: Ava N

Ushers: Cardinal Family

Greeters: Cardinal Family

Offering: Luca K & Eva K

Attendance last week: 82 + 5 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6), Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety. God nurtures and cares for us as we grow and journey in our faith. In knowing God's loving care for us, we are able to care for others.

Today's Music

Lead Me, Guide Me. Text: Doris Akers, 1922-1995, Music: Doris Akers. Unichappell Music Inc. / Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.

Now the Feast and Celebration. Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. GIA Publications, Inc. New Metrical Psalter. Tune Maryton. © 2008 by Christopher L. Webber.

Praise Ye the Lord. Text: J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1937-1986, based on Psalm 150, Music: J. Jefferson Cleveland. Estate of J. Jefferson Cleveland.

Alleluia! Voices Raise. Text: George Wither, 1588-1667, alt., based on Psalms 148 and 150, Music: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010. Public Domain / Oxford University Press (New York).

Oh, Worship the King. Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt., Music: William Croft, 1678-1727. Public Domain.

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me. Text: African American spiritual, Music: African American spiritual. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

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Next Week's Readings

Ezekiel 17:22-24 *The sign of the cedar, planted on the mountain of Israel*
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 *The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon*
2 Corinthians 5:6-17 *In Christ, a new creation*
Mark 4:26-34 *The parable of the mustard seed*