

**June 20, 2021**  
**4th Sunday after Pentecost**

**GATHERING**

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

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE:** *Ash Grove (Ranney)*

**MEDITATION**

**PSALM 96**

A new song for the Lord!  
Sing it and bless God's name,  
everyone, everywhere!  
Tell the whole world  
God's triumph day to day,  
God's Glory, God's wonder.

A noble God deserving praise,  
the dread of other gods,  
the puny gods of pagans;  
for our God made the heavens—  
the Lord of majestic light  
who fills the temple with beauty.

Proclaim the Lord, you nations,  
praise the glory of God's power,  
praise the glory of God's name!  
Bring gifts to the temple,  
bow down, all the earth,  
tremble in God's holy presence.

Tell the nations, "The Lord rules!"  
As the firm earth is not swayed,  
nothing can sway God's judgement.  
Let the heaven and earth be glad,  
the sea and sea creatures roar,  
the field and its beasts exult.

Then let the trees of the forest sing  
before the coming of the Lord,  
who comes to judge the nations,  
to set the earth aright,  
restoring the world to order.

## GATHERING SONG: *Give Me Jesus* (ELW 770)

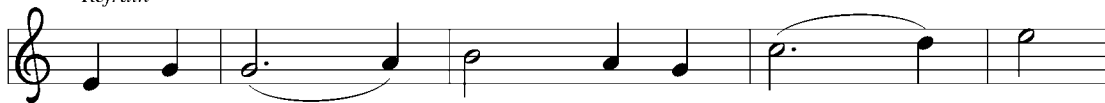


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,  
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,  
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,  
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,  
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.  
dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.  
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.  
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.  
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

*Refrain*



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

## GREETING/ PRAYER OF THE DAY

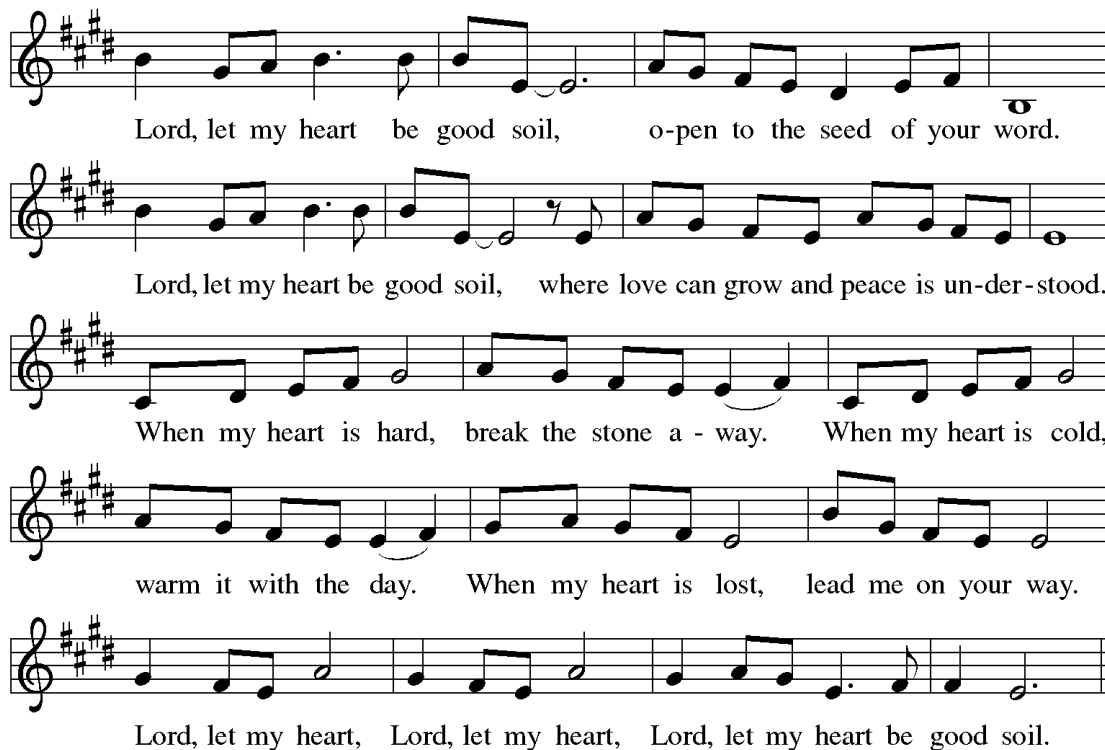
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea,  
sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us,  
by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE: *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil* (ELW 512)



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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### WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### THE WORD: Galatians 4

<sup>1</sup>My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; <sup>2</sup>but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. <sup>3</sup>So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

<sup>8</sup>Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. <sup>9</sup>Now, however, that you have come to know God,

or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again? <sup>10</sup>You are observing special days, and months, and seasons, and years. <sup>11</sup>I am afraid that my work for you may have been wasted.

<sup>12</sup>Friends, I beg you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong. <sup>13</sup>You know that it was because of a physical infirmity that I first announced the gospel to you; <sup>14</sup>though my condition put you to the test, you did not scorn or despise me, but welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>What has become of the goodwill you felt? For I testify that, had it been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. <sup>16</sup>Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? <sup>17</sup>They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you may make much of them. <sup>18</sup>It is good to be made much of for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with you. <sup>19</sup>My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, <sup>20</sup>I wish I were present with you now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

<sup>21</sup>Tell me, you who desire to be subject to the law, will you not listen to the law? <sup>22</sup>For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. <sup>23</sup>One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. <sup>24</sup>Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. <sup>25</sup>Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup>But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup>For it is written,

"Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children,  
burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs;  
for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous  
than the children of the one who is married."

<sup>28</sup>Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. <sup>29</sup>But just as at that time the child who was born according to the flesh persecuted the child who was born according to the Spirit, so it is now also. <sup>30</sup>But what does the scripture say? "Drive out the slave and her child; for the child of the slave will not share the inheritance with the child of the free woman." <sup>31</sup>So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman.

Word of God,  
word of life.

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD: *Children of the Heavenly Father* (ELW 781)**  
*Alain Adjorlolo, Guitar*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SERMON

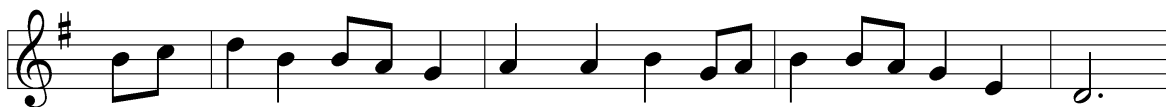
**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ Is the Life* (OBS 52)**



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,  
2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,  
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,  
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.  
who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.  
whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.  
cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans - form - ing burn - ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,  
Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,  
Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,  
Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.  
whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.  
for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.  
and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English melody

Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## **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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Let us come before the triune God in prayer.**

**Holy God, you gather your people from east and west, north and south.  
We pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, that your  
steadfast love may be made known to all peoples. Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.**

**You laid the foundations of the earth and the waters are the womb of  
creation. The morning stars sing your name and all creation shouts for  
joy. We pray for your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish  
and magnify your glory. Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayer.**

**You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing  
violence, hunger, and unrest. Guide worldwide and local community  
organizations in their efforts to establish safety and justice. Lord, in your  
mercy,  
hear our prayer.**

You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Liberate us from the systems and chains that bind us. Remove the barriers that separate us from one another. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our leaders and elders. Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness, that through their leadership you may be exalted in this assembly. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your love endures in all situations. On this Father's Day, we pray for those who are fathers or wish to be fathers, for those with broken or strained relationships, for those who are missing their fathers, and for fathers who have lost children. Bless and strengthen them. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

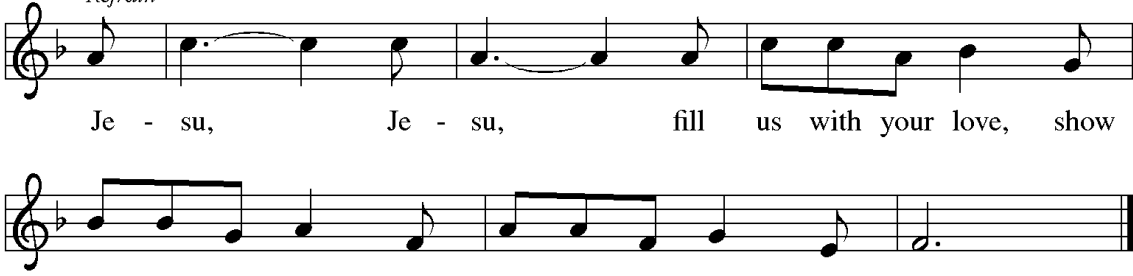
## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*


## **OFFERING/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## OFFERTORY: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* (ELW 708)

*Refrain*



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show  
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

*Refrain*



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh-bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.



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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

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.

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

## COMMUNION

*The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG: *Blessed Assurance* (ELW 638)



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* (Peter Scholtes)

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