

## **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 6**

Like a Grain of Mustard Seed

Ignorance Is Bliss?

June 13, 2021



### **AS WE GATHER**

Though much is made of the smallness of the mustard seed, the focus of Jesus is on outcome—the plant that becomes large enough to give nest and shade to all the birds of the air. The kingdom of God seems small and even irrelevant in the face of large problems, challenges, and problems of this mortal life, and yet it is the kingdom of God that is great. God gives to us the forgiveness that makes a clear conscience, the life that is stronger than death, and the joy that is greater than every joy this world can deliver. In this way, the small seed makes for a great plant, large enough for us to find refuge and a home in its shade. How the kingdom of God grows may seem part of the mystery, but we know that it is a seed planted in the good soil and fed and nourished by God’s grace to the day when the harvest delivers us into His presence forevermore. Many of the parables of Jesus have to do with agriculture—from the parable of the sower to this short description of the Kingdom like a mustard seed. There are so many little details with application to our lives, but today the focus is on the seed and the mystery of how it grows. What brings the seed from planting to harvest is the providence of God and His goodness and power. This is both the object of our interest and the domain of faith that trusts what the eye does not see and the mind does not comprehend. At the end of it all is the harvest; God brings into His storehouse all the fruits of His seed planted in good soil. The blissful ignorance we have of this process should not deprive us of the joy of its outcome.

### **✘ PREPARATION ✘**

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**

## **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

Holy, Creating, Creative God, We sing from the depths of our sorrow. We sing from the abundance of our joy. We sing in voices separate and unique. We sing with one voice as your body. God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our meager lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days, knowing that you are always watching over us. Prepare our hearts to receive your word and our spirits to respond in eagerness to serve you. May the words of our mouths, whether in speech or song, and the meditations of our hearts, whether in prose or poetry, be pleasing in your sight. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## **WELCOME:**

Welcome, friends, to this holy day. We are called to be branches in Christ's body; we yearn to be connected to the vine. We are Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God's creatures, we search for places to plant the seeds of faith. We are Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world's painful questions, we seek God's nurturing presence. We come to offer thanks; we come to sing and pray. Welcome, to this time set apart, A time to remember those we love, and time to remember the holy promises of God. Welcome, to this table of remembrance and joy, the table where we are fed, the feast we share with many. God has set this day before us, A Day set apart, a day of rest and praise. God has set our lives before us, A span of years in which we love, and learn, and serve. God has set God's seal upon our hearts, so that we might live fully in deep love. Welcome, friends, and let us worship God.

## **INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: Amen.

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 1:5-6*

Pastor: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
People: **for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

*Silence for self-examination.*

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

**People: I confess that I have sinned against You, in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done, and by what I have not done. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, my Savior, I ask forgiveness and pray You to deliver and restore me by Your mercy. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. 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. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

### **HYMN “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus” TLH 428 Sts. 1-3**

1. I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only Thee; Trusting Thee for full salvation, great and free.

2. I am trusting Thee for pardon; at Thy feet I bow, For Thy grace and tender mercy trusting now.

3. I am trusting Thee for cleansing in the crimson flood; Trusting Thee to make me holy by Thy blood.

### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

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.

People: **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**    *Ezekiel 17:22–24*    (The Lord promises to plant a sprig and make it grow, that it may be a noble tree and bear good fruit.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

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**EPISTLE**    *2 Corinthians 5:1–17*    (We walk by faith and not by sight.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**    *2 Peter 3:18a*



**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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Leader:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people as they have need.

Give patience to Your Church, to her ministers, and to all of us, Your people, that we trust in Your Word and promise when eyes do not see Your hand at work; and when hearts are tempted to anxiety and fear, grant that we know the fullness of Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Make us to be good soil so that the seed of Your Word planted in us may grow, flourish, and bear the good fruit You desire. Bless the work of all pastors, missionaries, and church workers who serve us in Your name that their ministry to us bear good fruit. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Give to our president, Congress, and all leaders the wisdom to govern according to Your Word and commands that they prove worthy of the trust we have placed in them. Bring the nations to peace, and equip us to be good and responsible citizens. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Give wisdom and discernment to Your people, that we not give in to temptation nor grow weary of trusting Your Word and serving in

willing obedience to Your commands, but delight in fulfilling our baptismal calling wherever we are. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Bless the married that they be faithful, bless the single that they be chaste and enjoy the company and support of Christian friends, and bless the aged and infirm that they know the loving care of family in their time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Bless those who teach Your Word, and bless our Sunday School and catechism classes and everywhere people gather to teach and learn Your Word, that the Holy Spirit guide our study, strengthen our faith, and direct us in making the good confession before the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Give relief to the suffering, healing to the sick, peace to the troubled, and comfort to those who grieve, [*especially . . . , and those we name in our hearts . . .*], and bless them with patience and endurance until You deliver them from their trials. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Help us to be good stewards of Your creation, to share what You have supplied with those in need, and to support the work of Your Church in her mission here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Leader: All things are Yours, heavenly Father, and You have promised to supply them to us as we need and when we need them. Help us to pray with confident hearts, trusting that You will provide for us all things needful and deliver us from all things harmful, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:** **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.

**People:** **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO**

**Ms. Angela Henderson**



