



# Sunday, June 13, 2021

## Third Sunday After Pentecost

### Introduction

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

### Gathering Hymn....."You Have Saved Us"

Who am I that You would know me  
Who are we to You Lord  
You have shown Your love and mercy  
We are strangers no more  
We are daughters we are sons  
All because of what You've done

#### **Chorus**

You have saved us  
You have raised us up with You  
You have saved us  
Called us out and made us new  
Yeah

Turn our hearts from earthly idols  
Turn our eyes to You Lord  
Only You can heal what's broken  
Only You can restore  
We are daughters we are sons  
All because of what You've done

#### **Chorus**

We are daughters we are sons  
All because of what You've done

#### **Chorus (x2)**

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

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

## First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

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.

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

## Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!  
**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

### **Gospel: Mark 4:26-34**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

[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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

## Sermon Song....."I Will Rise"

There's a peace I've come to know  
Though my heart and flesh may fail  
There's an anchor for my soul  
I can say it is well

### **Pre-Chorus**

Jesus has overcome  
And the grave is overwhelmed  
The victory is won  
He is risen from the dead

### **Chorus**

(And) I will rise when He calls my name  
No more sorrow no more pain  
I will rise on eagle's wings  
Before my God fall on my knees  
And rise I will rise (I will rise)

There's a day that's drawing near  
When this darkness breaks to light  
And the shadows disappear  
And my faith shall be my eyes

### **Pre-Chorus**

### **Chorus**

And I hear the voice of many angels sing  
Worthy is the Lamb  
And I hear the cry of ev'ry longing heart  
Worthy is the Lamb  
(REPEAT)  
Worthy is the Lamb

### **Chorus**

Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves | Louie Giglio | Matt Maher  
© 2008 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)  
spiritandsong.com (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)  
Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)  
Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)  
worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)  
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 1419869

## 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 power of 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

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

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,  
**Hear our prayer.**

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,  
**hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you (*especially Lisle, Judi, Don, Vincent, Barbara, Victoria, Christi, Larry, David, Kristina, Vicki, Margo, Joy, Lourdes, Michelle, LauraLee, Allen, Gloria, Sharon, Janis, Michael, JJ, Ellen, Iura, Cheryl, Ron, John & Christine, Linda, Darell, Rebecca, Richard, Ruth, Davis, James, Nancy, David and Lew*). Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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,  
**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you (*especially Dick, Jack and Wally*). We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **Offering**

#### **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**

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.

### **The 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.

## **Invitation to the Table**

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

## **Distribution**

*At this time take the elements you have with you saying these words:*

**The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

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.**

## **Blessing**

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

**Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn.....“We Want To See Jesus Lifted High”**

### **Verse**

We want to see Jesus lifted high  
A banner that flies across this land  
That all men might see the truth and know  
He is the way to heaven

We want to see Jesus lifted high  
A banner that flies across this land  
That all men might see the truth and know  
He is the way to heaven

### **Chorus**

We want to see we want to see  
We want to see Jesus lifted high  
We want to see we want to see  
We want to see Jesus lifted high

Step by step we're moving forward  
Little by little taking ground  
Ev'ry prayer a powerful weapon

Strongholds come tumbling down  
And down and down and down

Verse

## Chorus

Doug Horley

© 1993 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)

CCLI License # 1419869

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**