



God's Hidden Work  
Brings Visible Results to Our Eyes

June 16, 2024

Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church  
Crossville

## TODAY'S WORSHIP THEME – “A Top Down Faith”

You can't see it but it's there. No, not just carbon monoxide, but God's kingdom work. God's work to bring people into his family – ruled by his love, not his rules – was promised again and again in the Old Testament, and we see his church grow: from Adam & Eve to Seth to Noah and his family to the patriarchs to the believing children of Israel.

God grows his church through the invisible work of his Word. You've experienced it yourself. We still work at doing God's work – telling people about a Savior from sin and the gift of eternal life – but God is the one working from top down. We get to see the results.

## SILENT PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we are grateful at how you bring people into your kingdom. Bless us as we do our part to share, tell, teach, and invite. May your kingdom come! Amen.

## SUGGESTED READING BEFORE WORSHIP

Romans 10:14-18. Try the YouVersion app or [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) on your phone.

## HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED TODAY

The meal Jesus gave us that we call “Holy Communion” is unique. If you don't understand what it is or have never had it thoroughly explained to you, it would be wise to refrain from receiving it until you know what it means and what it all involves. Feel free to talk to Pastor Qualmann for more details.

## CONNECT CARD

Please give us feedback, suggestions, questions, or prayer requests on the “Connect Card.” You may place it in the offering plate when the offering is gathered.

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED MEMBERS

Get to know **Mike & Gwen Kellogg** and **Judy Bruce** on the announcement monitor.

## TODAY'S SONGS

Today we'll sing from *Christian Worship* (the blue songbook): 510, 644, 927

## OUR GUESTS

- **Thank you** for choosing us. Please make yourself at home!
- There's **coffee**, **tea**, and **water** before worship for you in our lobby and more coffee & treats after worship.
- Help yourself to materials on our **guest welcome table** in the lobby.
- **Restrooms** are easily accessible – men's through the first double doors, women's through the second double doors.

Visit us online at our Facebook page or  
[www.ascntn.org](http://www.ascntn.org)

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# God's People Gather to Worship

## WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

**"In Christ Alone"**  
*Christian Worship 510*

In Christ alone, my hope is found.  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All --  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness  
scorned by the ones he came to save,  
'til on that cross as Jesus died  
the wrath of God was satisfied,  
for every sin on him was laid.  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain,  
then bursting forth in glorious day  
up from the grave he rose again,  
and as he stands in victory  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine  
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Minister** In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Congregation** **Amen.**

**M** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

- C** Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.
- M** Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## ALL SING

## "In Christ Alone"

*Christian Worship 510:4*

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
can ever pluck me from his hand  
till he returns or calls me home.  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

# God's People Listen to God Speak

## FIRST LESSON

## Ezekiel 17:22-24

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup> On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. <sup>24</sup> All the trees of the forest will know that I the Lord bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

“I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it.”

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## CHOIR SONG

## “How Great Thou Art - Majesty”

by Stuart K. Hine and Jack Hayford  
setting by Joel Raney

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works the hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed.  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: “How great thou art, how great thou art!”  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: “How great thou art, how great thou art!”

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God his Son not sparing,  
    (Majesty, worship his majesty)  
Sent him to die I scarce can take it in;  
    (unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.)  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,  
    (Majesty, kingdom authority.)  
Jesus, who died, now glorified; his name be praised.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and then proclaim, “My God! How great thou art!”

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: “How great thou art, how great thou art!”  
    (Majesty, worship his majesty)  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: “How great thou art, how great thou art!”  
Jesus who died, now glorified, how great thou art!

## SECOND LESSON

## Colossians 1:3-8

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people— <sup>5</sup> the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. <sup>7</sup> You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

*Christian Worship 644*

## MESSAGE

Mark 4:26-35

He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup> Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup> With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup> He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

## God’s People Respond Gratefully

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

*For our guests, please do not feel obligated to give a gift, but we would be honored if you would fill out your **Connect Card**. You may place it in the offering plate.*

*To give a gift electronically, simply use the QR code on your phone and it will take you to our secure online giving platform.*



***“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”** - Proverbs 22:9*

## PRAYERS AND 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.

OR

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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen

## Holy Communion

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Because God tells us in his Word that Holy Communion is a sign of believers’ unity (1 Corinthians 10:17) we practice “Close Communion” as the Christian church has always done. We respectfully ask that only those who have a common confession of faith with us come forward.*

## MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

What seeds fascinate you because they grow so easily? Or so quickly?

When Jesus explained his parables to his disciples, what do you think their response was?

Do you think they asked a lot of questions or very few?

It's been said that we will be surprised when we get to heaven – at the people who are there, or the people who aren't there? Which of the two do you think will surprise you more?

## CLOSING PRAYER

**M** Lord Jesus, we are amazed at how you work. While we can't see it, we know your Word is working in the hearts of those who listen. You also work invisibly through Baptism and this special meal, Holy Communion. Renewed by the promise of your forgiveness, continue to work in us and fill us with your Spirit and your love. We pray this trusting you, our only Savior, and one God with the Father and the Spirit, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING SONG

**"Lord, Dismiss Us, With Your Blessing"**

*Christian Worship 927*

## BLESSING

**from Numbers 6**

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***You are all invited for coffee & treats in our fellowship hall.***

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### ***Today's Bible Study***

***Please join us for our video Bible study this morning at 11:30, entitled "Believe."***

***"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and forever. Amen! - 2 Peter 3:15***

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