

Pentecost 4

June 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 6 (Year B)

Faith is something that is not rational, logical, or reasonable. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit that sustains us in our daily lives. It assures us that God has our best interests at heart, but even more so that his will is done on earth as it is in heaven. As we walk by faith, we are assured that Christ is with us, even if we cannot fully understand the ways in which God’s kingdom comes on this earth.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22–24 **Israel is Replanted**

This lesson is just a snippet of a larger section in which Ezekiel prophesied to the exiles using a parable of two great eagles and a vine. The Lord made a promise to replant Israel, a tiny sprig that would grow sturdy branches and bear fruit until it became a great and noble cedar under which will dwell every sort of bird.

Psalm 1 **Delight in the Law of the Lord**

The psalmist sang of his great delight in the law of the Lord. Dwelling in the ways of God is like a tree planted next to a water source. It grows and flourishes as it is fed and watered constantly. The wicked, on the other hand, blow away like chaff.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:1–10 (11–17) **We Walk by Faith**

St. Paul described to the Corinthian Christians a dwelling that is eternal. Even when their present homes were destroyed, they could rely on God’s promise of a heavenly home. Even though life can be difficult, Paul assured them they have reason to be courageous: Christ prepared each of them for this life of faith and prepared a place for them with him forever.

Gospel Reading: Mark 4:26–34 **Two Parables about Seeds**

Jesus compared the kingdom of God to scattered seeds as well as to the tiniest seed, a mustard seed. Seeds are mysterious entities, but they remind believers that it is God who is in ultimate control of the kingdom, as it is by his power that seeds sprout and grow. God will use the most unusual means to accomplish his goals.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Apostles’ Creed

Faith is like roots of a tree that run deep into the ground. The seed of faith is sown by the Holy Spirit and the growth of faith is a mystery, just like the growth of any living being – plant or animal. Just as tender shoots need to be nurtured and cared for, likewise faith requires tending.

In a culture where more and more young people are drifting away from the faith of their parents, it is important that those of us who brought them to the Baptismal waters continue to tend to their faith and life in Christ.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight	---	675	720	635	---	---
My Faith Looks Up to Thee	479	---	702	759	243	243
All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name	328	---	549	634	16	16
All My Hope on God is Founded	---	782	---	757	---	---
Almighty God, Your Word is Cast	234	---	577	516	---	---
If You But Trust in God to Guide	453	---	750	769	222	222
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	211
For the Fruit of All Creation	563	---	894	679	---	---
We Know That Christ is Raised	189	---	603	449	---	---
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	543	---	790	858	11	11

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
By Faith
(CCLI# 5469291)
Praise You Anywhere
(CCLI# 7219772)
Build Your Kingdom
(CCLI# 6186078)
Walk by Faith
(CCLI# 3903041)
Trust in You
(CCLI# 7025522)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.