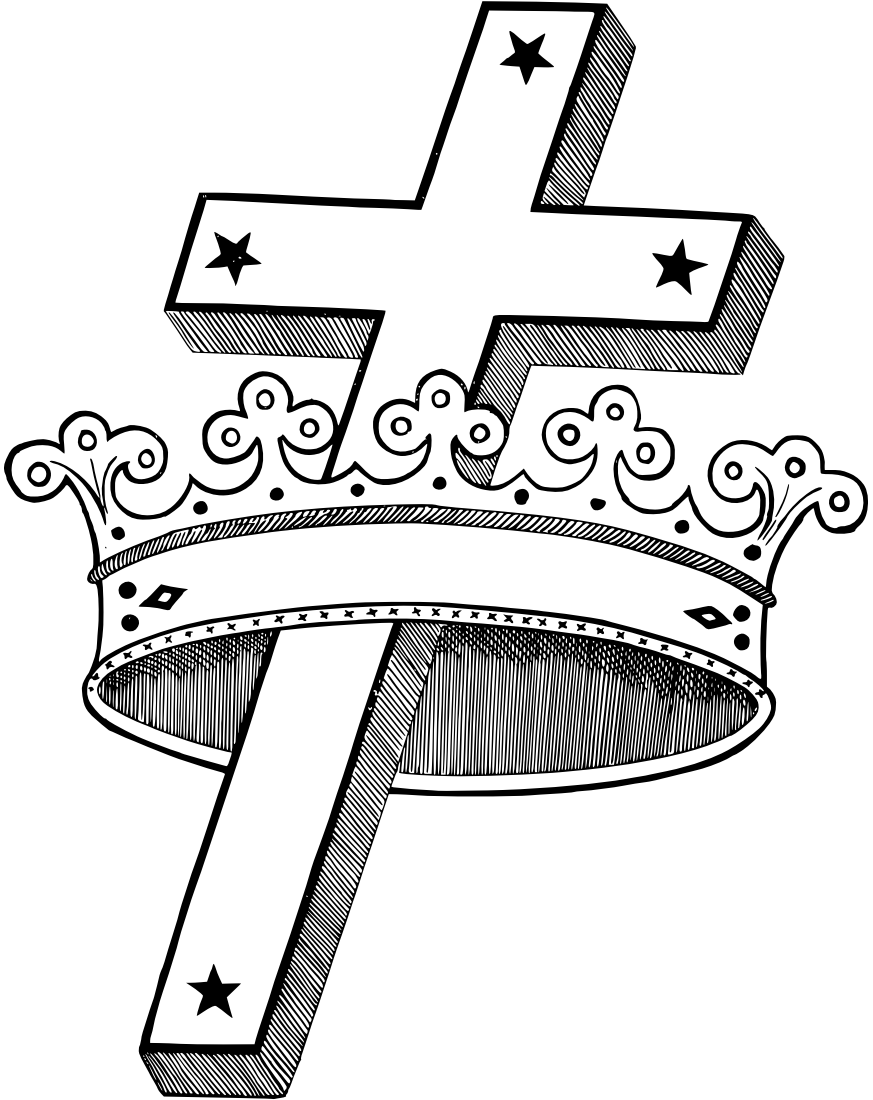


# PENTECOST 4

June 20, 2021



**Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**66325 M 152, Dowagiac (Sister Lakes), MI 49047**

David Schaller, pastor 269-424-3035

Sunday Worship, 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School, in recess



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A Member Congregation in the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

# ORDER OF SERVICE FOR PENTECOST 4

Adapted from *Worship Supplement 2000* and *The Lutheran Hymnal*

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## OPENING PRAYER

HYMN 30 (TLH)

Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices

## THE INVOCATION

(We declare that the triune God is the God we worship.)

P In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

(We confess our sins and hear God's announcement of forgiveness.)

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us pray.

**PC Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, out of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful to us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need.

## KYRIE ELEISON

(Latin for "Lord, have mercy." Having prayed for our spiritual needs, we now ask God to care for our earthly needs according to His mercy.)

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

**C Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

(We sing a hymn of glory to God.)

Melody: WS 758 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



**C Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son,  
Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One,  
One in might and one in glory While unending ages run!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

(A prayer that collects and reflects the themes of the day.)

## THE LESSONS

(We hear Bible readings that support the thoughts of the season.)

**Ezekiel 17:22-24**<sup>NIV84</sup> *God can make much of what looks like nothing, as He did in Christ. | "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 field 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."*

**Mark 4:26-34**<sup>NIV84</sup> *The field of the city, the small acre of the individual soul, both are brown and dead until the seed is scattered on it. What a waste of time it seems to be! And yet, hidden within the seed is life. | 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 seed you plant in the ground. <sup>32</sup>Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air 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.*

## PSALM FOR THE SEASON

(see back cover)

Psalm 45  
My Heart Is Overflowing

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

(We respond to the lessons by reciting what we believe.)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN 293 (TLH)

O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace

## THE SERMON

(We learn from God's word.)

### **GOD GIVES YOU REASON TO BE CONFIDENT**

1. *Knowing that you have an eternal house in heaven*
2. *Having the Spirit as a guarantee*


**2 Corinthians 5:1-10**<sup>NIV84</sup> Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. <sup>2</sup>Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. <sup>6</sup>Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup>We live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

## PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

(In the last portion of the service we pray and give thanks to God.)

P And the peace of God which is a greater peace than any our own minds can give to us shall guard your hearts in Christ Jesus unto life everlasting. Amen.

## THE OFFERTORY

 **C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**


OFFERING HYMN 442:1-2 (TLH) Lord of Glory, Who hast Bought Us

## PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 597 (TLH) For Me to Live Is Jesus

CLOSING PRAYER The Collect for Peace


P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 **C Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

(The Lord sends us home with His blessing.)

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

 **C Amen, Amen, Amen.**

HYMN 49 (TLH) Almighty God, Thy Word is Cast



## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions, June 21-26, 2021

by Prof. Paul Koch (retired)

**Mon Ezekiel 17:22-24** Need help with this parable? Read the rest of the chapter, for the *tender, young twig* appears to be the spiritual side of Israel, where God *exalts what is lowly*, takes what is *dry and makes it flourish* (24). This prediction for Israel melds into a prophecy for others, and fits the case of Christians who are afflicted by Satan, world, and their own sinful nature.

**Tues Mark 4:26-34** What force causes the seed to sprout, makes it grow through natural stages, and develop into seed-heads? This is not a lesson in botany, but insight into God's Word producing grand results in His kingdom (26-29). Putting it another way, God takes a small nucleus and makes it grow into a sheltering refuge for travelers on their flight homeward (30-32). We have seen God doing that miracle in our own town and congregation.

**Wed 2 Corinthians 5:1-10** Our earthly life is like living in tents and moving from one campground to another because we don't own real estate. Now then, since heaven is our home and God has *prepared us for this very thing*, (8-9), we trust God to honor our reservation when we show up to claim it.

**Thurs Psalm 92** honors God for producing us in His workshop, thus making us His workmanship. Tough He's not finished with us, we are winners already (1-5). Note: palm trees are good for producing edibles, and cedars are good for lumber—so both have their places among God's abundant blessings.

**Fri Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43** This message from Jesus humbles us, for He is giving us the bad news that Satan can infiltrate the ranks of confessing Christians; such hypocrites may escape detection in our congregations and fellowship for a lifetime—until Jesus pulls them out and puts them where they belong. [Now, don't skip the closing verse, 43; it's good news.]

**Sat Acts 27:39-28:1** Some might say that God was wasting time with those sailors, soldiers, and passengers at the mercy of the storm, but we know better, for they were not at the mercy of the storm but rather at the mercy of God. They had lost the cargo, the ship's running gear, and their personal belongings—so all they had left were their own lives. When the desperate soldiers planned to kill the prisoners, *lest any of them should swim away and escape* with their lives, the Lord made use of their superior officer to be more compassionate (43) and order everyone to abandon ship. So overboard they went, swam as best they could and/or latched onto floating debris, and that's how all *escaped* (Aha!) drowning and set foot on the beach of the island of Malta. ALL this happened exactly as God willed, for He had other plans for Paul, **and** 275 others had their time of grace extended. Praise the Lord!

## MY HEART IS OVERFLOWING

*Antiphon*

Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-  
lu-ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

*Psalm Tone*

My heart is overflowing with a good theme;\*  
I recite my composition concerning the King;  
My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.\*  
You are fairer than the sons of men;  
Grace is poured upon Your lips;\*  
Therefore God has blessed You forever.  
Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One,\*  
With Your glory and Your majesty.

*Antiphon*

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;\*  
A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.  
You love righteousness\*  
and hate wickedness;  
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You\*  
With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Antiphon*