

# The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Proper 6

June 16, 2024

## The Collect of the Day

O Lord, from whom all good proceeds: Grant us the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may always think those things that are good, and by your merciful guidance may accomplish the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## A Reading from Ezekiel 31:1-14

In the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, say to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his multitude: “Whom are you like in your greatness? Behold, Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches and forest shade, and of towering height, its top among the clouds. The waters nourished it; the deep made it grow tall, making its rivers flow around the place of its planting, sending forth its streams to all the trees of the field. So it towered high above all the trees of the field; its boughs grew large and its branches long from abundant water in its shoots. All the birds of the heavens made their nests in its boughs; under its branches all the beasts of the field gave birth to their young, and under its shadow lived all great nations. It was beautiful in its greatness, in the length of its branches; for its roots went down to abundant waters. The cedars in the garden of God could not rival it, nor the fir trees equal its boughs; neither were the plane trees like its branches; no tree in the garden of God was its equal in beauty. I made it beautiful in the mass of its branches, and all the trees of Eden envied it, that were in the garden of God. “Therefore thus says the LORD God: Because it towered high and set its top among the clouds, and its heart was proud of its height, I will give it into the hand of a mighty one of the nations. He shall surely deal with it as its wickedness deserves. I have cast it out. Foreigners, the most ruthless of nations, have cut it down and left it. On the mountains and in all the valleys its branches have fallen,

and its boughs have been broken in all the ravines of the land, and all the peoples of the earth have gone away from its shadow and left it. On its fallen trunk dwell all the birds of the heavens, and on its branches are all the beasts of the field. All this is in order that no trees by the waters may grow to towering height or set their tops among the clouds, and that no trees that drink water may reach up to them in height. For they are all given over to death, to the world below, among the children of man, with those who go down to the pit.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 92

*The Psalm will be chanted.*



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- 1 It is a good thing to give thanks unto the **LORD**, \*  
and to sing praises unto your Name, O Most **High**,
- 2 To tell of your loving-kindness early in the **morning**, \*  
and of your faithfulness in the night **season**,
- 3 Upon an instrument of ten strings and upon the **lute**, \*  
with the sound of melody upon the **harp**.
- 4 For you, **LORD**, have made me glad by your **deeds**, \*  
and I will shout for joy because of your **handiwork**.
- 5 O **LORD**, how glorious are your **works**; \*  
your thoughts are very **deep**.
- 6 The dull of heart does not con-**sider this**, \*  
and a fool does not under-**stand it**:
- 7 Though the ungodly are as green as the grass, and though  
all the workers of wickedness **flourish**, \*  
they shall be destroyed for ever; but you, **LORD**, are the Most High  
for ever-**more**.

- 8 For lo, your enemies, O LORD, lo, your enemies shall **perish**, \*  
and all the workers of wickedness shall be de-**stroyed**.
- 9 But my horn shall be exalted like the horns of wild **bulls**; \*  
for I am anointed with fresh **oil**.
- 10 My eye also shall see its desire upon my **enemies**, \*  
and my ear shall hear with joy the end of the wicked who rise up a-**gainst me**.
- 11 The righteous shall flourish like a **palm tree**, \*  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar in **Lebanon**.
- 12 Those who are planted in the house of the **LORD** \*  
shall flourish in the courts of our **God**.
- 13 They also shall bring forth fruit in their old **age**, \*  
and shall be green and full of **sap**,
- 14 That they may show how upright the **LORD is**, \*  
my rock, in whom there is no un-**righteousness**.

### **A Reading from 2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. 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 are of good courage, 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 we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is

due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## **The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 4:26-34**

*All standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Holy Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark.

*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out 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 without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **Proper Preface**

*The Lord's Day*

*For the Celebrant to read after the Sursum Corda.*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life .