



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 18, 2010

A Note from Pastor Hergy to the Congregation

I am grateful to the Rev. Peter Fischer for saying yes to my/our request for him to take this unexpected and hastily-put-together interim ministry. I don't know what I/we would have done had he said otherwise. I have known Peter for many years, respect his judgement and trust him completely with this congregation's wellbeing. And I trust all of you to provide him the same welcome, warmth, space, freedom to risk, and joyful acceptance/enthusiasm/daringness that you have given me over the years.

Since Peter is presently a "stay-at-home dad" and a budding author--and therefore not presently serving a congregation--there ought to be no expectations placed on him (or his wife, Linda, or his sons, Traben and Jonah); nor should there be subtle hints about a possible future relationship to First Lutheran when I retire.

(On the other hand, please feel free to let him know how much you appreciate his homilies, worship leadership and the fact that, for three months at least, you have the tallest pastor in the synod).

For the time he and we have together, let's do our best to make it a delightful and refreshing experience and be grateful for the ministry we have and will have with and to one another. Let the present be sufficient. . .and let God take care of the future.

I have assured Peter that he is fortunate to be at FLC for the next three months among the best (and best-looking) community in the synod. . .and probably in the whole ELCIC; and I want everyone else to know that FLC is fortunate to have Peter's gifts, passion, creativity and insights to enrich and enliven our worship and ministry together.

As I said in my Easter homily, we don't have to be afraid of the future, unknown or uncertain though it may be, because that is where the risen Christ is waiting for us. . .and where Christ is taking us into (even if we don't always want to go there).

Trudy and I are thankful for your prayers for healing, your expressions of love and concern for my wellbeing, your presence in our congregation and your commitment to what we do and who we are together. I'll do my best to keep you informed as to how things are progressing after my surgery and during my recovery. Until then, peace be with you all.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord."¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Response after the reading: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 30

You have turned my wailing into dancing. (Ps. 30:11)

Refrain:

You have turned my wail - ing in - to
danc - ing, in - to danc - ing.

¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift-¹ed me up
and have not let my enemies triumph¹ over me.

²**O LORD my God, I cried¹ out to you,
and you restored¹ me to health.**

³You brought me up, O LORD, ¹from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down¹ to the grave.

⁴**Sing praise to the LORD,¹ all you faithful;
give thanks in ho-¹ly remembrance. R**

⁵God's wrath is short; God's favor¹ lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes¹ in the morning.

⁶**While I felt se-¹cure, I said,
"I shall never¹ be disturbed.**

⁷You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong¹ as the mountains."
Then you hid your face, and I was¹ filled with fear.

⁸**I cried to¹ you, O LORD;
I pleaded with¹ my Lord, saying,**

⁹"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down¹ to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or de-¹clare your faithfulness?

¹⁰**Hear, O LORD, and have mer-¹cy upon me;
O LORD,¹ be my helper." R**

¹¹You have turned my wailing¹ into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed¹ me with joy.

¹²**Therefore my heart sings to you¹ without ceasing;
O LORD my God, I will give you¹ thanks forever. R**

Tone:



SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11–14

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship on the Lord's Day. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,
¹²singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!" ¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Response after the reading: Thanks be to God.

Announcements

This Week

Monday

Council meeting, 6:15 pm

Thursday

Choir rehearsal, 7:00 pm

Next Sunday

Sunday School, 9:15 am

Worship, 10:30 am

BIRTHDAYS

Please join us downstairs after the service this morning for cake, coffee and conversation as we celebrate the birthdays of our friends who are born in April.

FREE FURNITURE

COUCH, EASY CHAIR,
FRIDGE

Please contact **Michael Ray**
at **604 451-5165** for details.

Pr. Peter Fischer's Contact Information:

Phone: 604 228-4676

Email: peterfischer@shaw.ca

Our thanks to those who have volunteered to serve our parish by serving on Church Council.

Christine Neumann, Sandi Strate
Ernie Neumann, Sylvia Harris
Peter Clark, Julie Bauming
Karen Duddy, Karen Kerfoot
Russell Collins
Alex Wilson*, Ingrid Bielenberg*

*Elected during AGM

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED



**Kodachi Kitagata, Saki
Kaneko and Sayaka Mocha** -
students from Ritsumeikan
University, Kyoto, Japan,
which has an exchange
programme with UBC, have

been worshipping with us and singing in the choir since last fall. They will be returning to Japan this coming week to continue their university studies. They will be missed by the congregation. May God continue to bless them.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

FRACTION (as the bread is broken)
The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

“LAMB OF GOD”

p. 191



It is Christ himself who invites all the baptized members of God's family — and all our guests — to come to his table where he gives his body and blood, along with the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation under the forms of bread and wine. After receiving the bread into the open, upraised palm, all may drink from the first (common) cup or, if desired, have an individual glass filled from the second (pouring) cup.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

#384 “That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”
All in an April Evening

Hugh Robertson

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*All rise*)

SENDING

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

(We are not saying “*sayo-nara*,” we are saying “*itte-irasshai*.”)

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN **#674 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”**

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “*Caithness*” Healey Willan

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Sing Alleluia verse before and after reading*)

p. 188

GOSPEL: John 21:1–19

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

Response after announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. ⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Response to the reading: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY #659 *“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”*

INSTALLATION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Rejoicing in the glory of the resurrection dawn, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

You feed us with your word and holy meal. Bind together all who eat at Jesus' table,
that we may be a visible sign of your presence in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You open our eyes, and we marvel at the beauty of your creation. Teach us to be good stewards
of the waters and lands, of the plants and animals. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You widen our hearts to care for peoples and nations around the globe. Look with kindness
on all our neighbours, especially those with beliefs and customs different from our own.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You tend your lambs that are weak and needy. Heal the wounded, comfort the afflicted,
bless the dying, soothe the suffering *especially...*, and teach us the way of compassion.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call us to follow you, like the fishermen of Galilee. Strengthen our congregation in
our work and in our play, in our weeping and in our rejoicing. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You inspire us with prophets and saints who recognized you as Lord *especially...*
Encourage us with their witness from beyond the grave. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray,
trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Songs Without Words, No. 20* Felix Mendelssohn

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(All Rise)*

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING p. 190

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Prayer over the gifts)
... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again...

LORD'S PRAYER p. 182

**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.**