

Announcements

HELLO/FAREWELL

This morning we say “hello” again to Pr. Hergy who is returning to full-time ministry at First following his recovery from eye surgery. We are also saying “farewell” and thank-you to Pr. Peter who has been our interim pastor these last four months. May God bless you both as you move forward under the grace and guidance of God.

Today we remember with thanksgiving the life of Peter S. (1978-2005), a beloved member of First Lutheran, who died on this day five years ago.

“The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.” (Deut. 33:27a)

First Lutheran will be hiring a new church Secretary/Administrative Assistant. The candidate must not be a member of First Lutheran. If you know of any friends or acquaintances who might be interested in the position, ask them to call the church office during the weekdays mornings.

Congratulations to Jessie P. who graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon this year.

This is what she wrote in the Seminary’s newsletter:

*“I started my theological study seven years ago, first at Vancouver School of Theology, and then at LTS. It’s been a rough journey during which I experienced much illness, significant cultural shock, and many doubts about the Christian faith. But, thanks be to God, whose love has enabled me to reach this day of graduation. God’s love has manifested through my home congregation, **First Lutheran (Vancouver)**, my hosting family, Carol and Ron Boden in Saskatoon, and my internship site, St. Peter’s Ecumenical (Slave Lake). I thank my family, my doctor, and my boss for their care, medical skills, and understanding. A special thank-you goes to St. Mary’s Anglican Church in Ponoka where I have been experiencing God’s powerful healing and forgiveness. I especially thank LTS for the best theological training and the many opportunities for its students to grow. Finally and foremost, I thank God. Alleluia!”*

Taken from “Sheaves” the newsletter of Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, July 2010 #44.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 15, 2010**

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AUGUST 15, 2010
"Liturgy of Word and Sacrament"

Worshippers may wish to light a votive candle in memory of a loved one or for meditation. This may be done at any time before or during the liturgy except during community prayers, readings or homily. Since the number of candles is limited and to avoid mishaps, parents and caregivers are asked to be attentive when allowing children to light one.

INTRODUCTION

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses." In the word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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;**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For 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.**



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

466 "In the Singing"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (All rise)

God our creator, at this table you have satisfied us with the good things of your grace. Fix our hearts on your mercy and truth, that our lives may reflect your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

669 "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Empower your church to be faithful to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith, especially in the face of persecution. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore your creation, especially deserts and places of hot winds and scorching heat. Keep safe firefighters and all who work to put out flames and save those in danger. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise up just and fair leaders, for all the nations belong to you. Quench the raging fire of war and conflict, and bring your peace to this earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give justice to the weak and the orphaned. Bring dignity to the poor and needy. Heal the sick (*especially ...*), that they may know your joy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen all families in this congregation, that father and son, mother and daughter may be united in their love for you and service to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who have run with perseverance the race of faithfulness and are now joined with you in glory (*especially Mary, the mother of Jesus and ...*). Grant us the same strength to live by faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (Prayer over the gifts)

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #713“O God of Every Nation

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1–7

The prophet sings about a beautiful vineyard, carefully planted and cultivated, that nevertheless yields wild grapes. The owner therefore determines to destroy the vineyard, which represents the sinful people of Israel and Judah.

Let me sing for my beloved

my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard

on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;

he built a watchtower in the midst of it,

and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes,

but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem

and people of Judah,

judge between me

and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard

that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,

why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you

what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,

and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Response after the reading: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

Chapter 11

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Chapter 12

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Response after the reading: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:49–56

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

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

⁴⁹I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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

HOMILY *(Silence for reflection follows)*

HYMN OF THE DAY **#723 "Canticle of the Turning"**

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*