

Dear Church Council Chairpeople and Clergy,

As you all probably know, our beloved Bishop, Gerhard Preibisch, is retiring this summer after many years of faithful ministry. Bishop Gerhard has served the Office of Pastor in parishes in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and British Columbia, and has served as our Bishop for the past nine years. At our upcoming Synodical convention (May 13-16) we will be electing a new bishop for the BC Synod. We therefore want to thank our Bishop publicly at the Synod convention, even though his position does not formally conclude until the end of July.

The BC Synod Council Executive and the Bishop's Mutual Ministry Committee are inviting pastors and congregational members to contribute to a retirement gift for Bishop Gerhard and his wife Winn. This will include both an opportunity to contribute financially to a "purse" which will be given to Gerhard and Winn at the Saturday night banquet (May 15th). It will also include an opportunity to contribute to a "giving thanks scrapbook" which will include letters, pictures, short stories, and so on.

Please send your financial contribution and personal letters to the synod office, payable to Gene Blishen, at 80 East 10th Avenue, New Westminster, BC V3L 4R5. On the envelope, mark it "Attention: Robert Hampel." (Robert is the synod bookkeeper and hence mail addressed to him is unlikely to be noticed by Bishop Gerhard.) Inside the letter, please clearly indicate that it is for the Bishop's Retirement Gift. **Again, please make the cheque payable to Gene Blishen.** Please note that these gifts will not be eligible for charitable donation receipts. Rev. David Lefsrud (mutual ministry member) and one of the Officers will coordinate the making up of the scrapbook.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution. We hope you will be able to join us in Victoria, May 15th as we present Bishop Preibisch and Winn with these gifts of thanksgiving and gratitude for their many years of faithful service.
Sincerely yours,

Rev. Cliff Reinhardt
Secretary, BC Synod Council

Rev. David Lefsrud
Bishop's Mutual Ministry Committee

Mr. Gene Blishen
Treasurer, Synod Council

ATTENTION

Parents of children who will be confirmed next Sunday are invited to the rehearsal **tomorrow night at 7:00 pm** here at FLC.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 2, 2010

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN #364 *“Christ has Arisen, Alleluia* (v. 3 - unaccompanied)

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

The Solid Rock

Don Hustad

There is a Beautiful Country

There is a beautiful country that was promised by God to us,
And is only for those who were saved by the blood of Jesus.
Is a country for peace an happiness
And we will have no more problems.

Refrain:

*It's a big loss for you who will not go there
And see the One who was sacrificed for you.
We will not be told or taught
Because we will be seeing him face to face.*

In the country there is no war,
No fatigues, no torturing, no discrimination.
There is no confusion, or show off
And there will be no death. **R**

We have been invited in that country,
That is full of milk and honey, and there are no tears.
Our seats are prepared by our Saviour, the Almighty. **R**

If I had wings I would ascend to heaven
And go see the one who was sacrificed for me.
When that time comes we will have wings and ascend to heaven. **(R 2x)**

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1–18

In defense of his earlier baptism of pagan believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' own testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

PSALM 148

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

Refrain:



¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD ¹from the heavens;
 praise God ¹in the heights.
²Praise the LORD, ¹all you angels;
 sing praise, all you ¹hosts of heaven.
³**Praise the LORD, ¹sun and moon;**
sing praise, all you ¹shining stars.
⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- ¹en of heavens,**
and you waters a- ¹bove the heavens.
⁵Let them praise the name ¹of the LORD,
 who commanded, and they ¹were created,
⁶who made them stand fast forev- ¹er and ever,
 giving them a law that shall not ¹pass away. R
⁷**Praise the LORD ¹from the earth,**
you sea monsters ¹and all deeps;
⁸**fire and hail, ¹snow and fog,**
tempestuous wind, do- ¹ing God's will;
⁹mountains ¹and all hills,
 fruit trees ¹and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts ¹and all cattle,
 creeping things and ¹flying birds;
¹¹**sovereigns of the earth ¹and all peoples,**
princes and all rulers ¹of the world;
¹²**young ¹men and maidens,**
old and ¹young together. R
¹³Let them praise the name ¹of the LORD,
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over ¹earth and heaven.
¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all ¹faithful servants,
 the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. ¹Hallelujah! R

Tone:



SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1–6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out

You command us to love one another, even as you have first loved us, O God. Teach us how to love all our neighbours, especially those we find hardest to love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You offer us a vision of the holy city, O God. We thank you for the vision of the saints who have gone before us *especially...*, and *Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, whom we commemorate today* and all who now rest from their labours. 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 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* arr. Jack Schraeder

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*All rise*)

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING p. 180

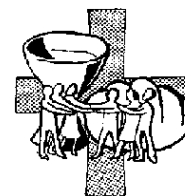
“**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Prayer over the gifts)

THE LORD’S PRAYER p. 182

FRACTION The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

“**LAMB OF GOD**” (*Choir sings first, then all sing once*) p. 182



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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

#625 “Come, We Have That Love the Lord”

Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Paul Manz

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*All rise*)

**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 make all things new, O God. Bring unity to your divided body across the world.
Breathe new life into churchwide leaders, synod staff, and our companion synod (*in...*).
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have given us the repentance that leads to life, O God. Help us care tenderly for the planet
we have damaged. Mend the scarred places of the earth, our home. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You make your dwelling among mortals, O God. Bring peace to cities in turmoil;
visit struggling villages with good weather and resources; make your loving presence known
to all nations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You promise to wipe away every tear from our eyes, O God. Comfort those overcome
with grief, crying, and pain. Heal those who are ill *especially...*, and bring refugees to safety.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice
from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they
will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have
passed away." ⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things
new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he said to me,
"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give
water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

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

SOLO (Joel Gahungu) *"There is a Beautiful Country"* (please see page 9 for English translation)

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

p. 179

GOSPEL: John 13:31–35

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his
glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive
mark of Jesus' community.*

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

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been
glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and
will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for
me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give
you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should
love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for
one another."

Response to conclusion: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY (*Silence for reflection follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY #720 *"We Are Called"*

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,**