



*I went to Kingsway and Earles to get soles put on my cowboy boots. I dropped my boots off and was going to go back to my car when it occurred to me that Pilgrim Book and Bible was in the next block. I had never been there, and had been meaning to go. This would only take two minutes - perfect.*

*I went in and they had a display of books by Charles Spurgeon on for half price. I looked and saw "Power in the Blood", "Power Over Satan" and "Morning and Evening", and took them all. As the cashier was ringing them up, he was chatting, and looking at my titles, he said, "Oh - these are gold". A mere thirty odd dollars later I walked out with my armful of gold.*

*The first two were excellent, but I want to tell you about the third. "Morning and Evening" is a book of seven hundred and thirty page long, dated devotionals - one for each morning and one for each evening. And yes, 730 is 365 times 2. Anyway, cashier guy was right -- they are gold. Spurgeon was a nineteenth century English Baptist pastor and author. He has a kind and loving pastor's heart, and it is obvious that he loves Jesus. Both are evident in "Morning and Evening". You will start and end your day encouraged and with a real nugget of gold to hang onto and rub with the fingers of your mind.*

*Read a page while you drink your morning coffee, while you have your breakfast, after you get your kids to bed; put it in the magazine rack in the bathroom -- you will not be sorry you bought it. This weekend I accidentally left my copy on the night table of a motel room in Kamloops -- hope the cleaning staff enjoys it! So I went down to Pilgrim Book and Bible; they still had a few copies, still on sale for \$14.95. Gold is currently about \$1,230 per ounce. I figure this book is maybe a pound and a half. That's \$26,961 worth of gold in a book you can buy for \$14.95. What kind of a fool wouldn't take that deal?*

*Go to Pilgrim Bible and Book on Kingsway. Don't miss this blessing. "Morning and Evening" by Charles Spurgeon. Gold.*

*Jackie Luther*



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2010**

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*"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**

*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.*

**PRESERVICE MUSIC**

**GATHERING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN** #448 *"This is the Spirit's Entry Now"*

**LITURGY OF HOLY BAPTISM**

p. 227

**GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 18:1-11**

*God teaches Jeremiah a lesson at a potter's shop. Just as a potter is able to destroy an unacceptable vessel, starting over to refashion it into one of value, so God molds and fashions the nations, including Israel.*

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words. <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. <sup>4</sup>The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

<sup>5</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>6</sup>Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just

# Announcements



We welcome Jaya Kelln Lowrey into the body of Christ by means of Holy Baptism. Jaya is the newest in a long line of descendants of the Rev. Daniel Nelson who founded First Lutheran in 1890.

Jaya was born in Vancouver on December 18, 2009. Her parents are Gordon Scott Lowrey and Nadine Jay Kelln.

Jaya's Godparents are Allison Rae Kelln, Darren Dana Kelln, Deadra Ann Oblander and Clifford Lawrence Eisler.

Also, this morning we welcome Adolf and Marian M. into membership at First Lutheran by transfer from Oakridge Lutheran Church where Adolf was pastor until his retirement in 2009.

Our confirmation ministry will start again later in September. All those 12 years or older who have not taken the 2-year programme of study are asked to speak with Pastor Hergy.

Sunday School for children 3-12 years of age resumes on Sunday, September 12. For



further information, please contact Dawna M. As well, those interested helping teach full or part-time in the wonderfully innovative education ministry focused on our children, please contact Dawna as soon as possible.



The choir will resume rehearsals on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Any and all are invited to join us every Thursday from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Next Sunday, September 12, we will celebrate with all those whose birthdays are in September. Pass the word around that all are welcome to the party.

## 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**

**#656 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**

**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**

**#854 “Blessing and Honour”**

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, <sup>8</sup>but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. <sup>9</sup>And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, <sup>10</sup>but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. <sup>11</sup>Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

*Response after the reading:*

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Philemon 1:1–21**

*While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.*

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love — and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother — especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in

Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

*Response after the reading:*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 14:25–33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

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

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

*Response to the reading:*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HOMILY** *(Silence for reflection follows)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** # 453 *"Baptized and Set Free"*

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

God hears the cry of the poor and is near to all in need. Let us pray for our neighbours, our world, and ourselves, trusting in God's mercy and love. *A brief silence.*

God, you gather your church from the ends of the earth, planting us through baptism beside your life-giving stream. We pray for Jaya, her parents and sponsors, and all the baptized as well as those who lead your people in prayer and service. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God, you have set before us life and death, entrusting to us the care of your creation. We pray for the health of the land from which we draw life and ask your protection up every living creature. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God, your family extends to each land and race. We pray for the leaders of nations, that they may walk in the ways of your mercy and justice. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God, your gospel means freedom for all who are oppressed. We pray for the liberation of all who are held captive to poverty, prejudice, and fear. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God, your Spirit is alive in this place. We pray for new energy in our ministries of education and formation. Inspire all who will serve as teachers and mentors this year to share their faith with boldness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God, you know the needs and hear the cries of all in distress of body, mind or spirit. Be present with, and strengthen the ill, grieving, lonely, or anxious, especially ... . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God, we thank you each time we remember those we love. We praise you especially for ... and all whose lives of faith have borne witness to the wideness of your embrace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All this we ask, gracious God, together with all that is known to you alone, in the name of your risen and anointed Son, through the power of your life-giving Spirit. **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.**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** (Prayer over the gifts)