



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 30, 2011

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*Holy Communion, Setting Eight*

**JANUARY 30, 2011**

*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

*Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be "caught" in the net of God's grace and mercy.*

### PRELUDE

*Arioso*  
*Beautiful Saviour*

J. S. Bach  
arr. Robert Hobby

## GATHERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING HYMN

**# 714 "O God of Mercy "**  
*v.2-women; v.3-all(with flute); v.4-men*

### GREETING

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### KYRIE

### "THIS IS THE FEAST"

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### SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen**

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel by his long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favour. Rather God empowers his people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

February blahs get you down every year? Probably will forget to get that "special someone" a Valentine? Like a little excitement in the last, dark days of winter's longest (at least seems the longest) month? Well, have we got an event for you: A big-sound-toe-tapping-lively-dance-and-listening-Tommy Dorsey-style-music band.



URBANA--a 20+ member brass-and-reed-and-drum swing orchestra that rehearses in our basement every Saturday morning--will be putting on a cabaret-style benefit concert in our lower fellowship hall on Friday, February 25. Doors open at 6:30 and the joint begins to jump at 7 p.m. and hops until 9 p.m. Bring your own liquid refreshment; we'll supply glasses, coffee, tea and juice, along with chips and dip and easy snacks. Admission by donation--and all monies raised go to the Lennikov Legal Fund.

Might be nice to email or phone the church office [info@firstlutheranvancouver.com](mailto:info@firstlutheranvancouver.com) or 604-435-6020 to let us know how many will be coming so we can have enough tables and chairs and food ready to go.

More info next week, but for now, mark your calendar, bring a friend or two, and be ready to laugh (and even dance). . .and make spring come early!



Congratulations to Louis Bizimana and Venancia Nanziza, who welcomed the arrival of their new baby girl Grace on Thursday, January 28. Both parents and Grace are doing well.



As all may have noticed, we have a brand new (to us) grand piano. It was given to First Lutheran Church as a gift from Jonathan Service. We will be dedicating this lovely instrument to the glory of God on February 6th when the Bishop, Greg Mohr, will be our guest.



Those interested in serving on church council are asked to speak with Sandi Strate or phone her at 604-274-0389. Consider this an invitation and an opportunity to share your gifts with our community.

A couple of people mentioned that they did not receive the same gender marriage survey results that was mailed before last Christmas. If there is anyone else who did not receive a copy in the mail, extra copies are available in the church office. See Pr. Hergy to pick one up.

**TODAY** after church service, Parish Care Centre Annual General Meeting on lower level . All FLC members are invited to attend.

From Pamela Nel, a longtime member who grew up in First Lutheran (and eventually became the organist and wife of Michael Nel, the pastor of First Lutheran in the 80s) sharing the news of the death of her mother Susan Lear who, with her husband, the late Cy Lear, were strong and longtime members of First Lutheran and played major roles in the building of this present structure.

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

### PSALM 15

*LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)*

*Refrain*



LORD, who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?



That you nourish us at your table, so that we may extend mercy to others and be makers of peace in our communities, families, and workplaces. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In thanksgiving for all your blessed ones, especially those who gave their lives for the sake of the gospel, who now rejoice in heaven. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers and hopes, God of mercy and justice, for we pray in the name of Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

**OFFERING/OFFERTORY**      *On Eagle's Wings*      arr. Anne Krentz Organ

### OFFERTORY PRAYER *(All rise)*

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

## MEAL

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**      p.190

“**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**”

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Prayer over the gifts)

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

“**LAMB OF GOD**”      p.191

**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.*

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**      # 659 “*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*”  
Meditation      Jacob Arcadelt

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*sing alleluia verse before and after the reading*)

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### **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1–12**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*Response to conclusion:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      #720 “*We Are Called*”

**THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

As God's beloved children, let us pray that the light of Christ shine on the nations, the church, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

That the church may proclaim Christ crucified and announce your blessing on the poor in spirit, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

That all government and civic leaders turn from self-interest and seek justice, kindness, and humility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

That we treat the earth with reverence, honour its diverse nations and peoples, and share of its bountiful resources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

That you comfort those who mourn, those who are persecuted for their beliefs or convictions, and those who face anxiety or illness (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**