



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 30, 2009

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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 protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been washed in the word when we were born in the font, return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

*Agnus Dei
Prelude on 'Union Seminary'*

George Bizet
Paul Manz

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN *#808 "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"*

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Though using language and images of a love story, the Song of Solomon has long been interpreted allegorically. Jewish lore sees it as a description of the love between the Lord and Israel. Christians have often interpreted the Song as a description of the love between Christ and his church.

⁸The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

⁹My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.

Look, there he stands behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

Please Mark Your Calendar

**ABBA Cadabra LIVE!
Saturday, September 12, 2009
First Lutheran Church**

**Doors open at 6:00 pm
Show starts at 7:30 pm**

**Tickets are available at the office
Or call Errol at 604 583-5969
or email errolp@shaw.ca**

Please note that once again we are asking for coffee donations for our Fellowship Hours on Sundays since our supply is getting low.



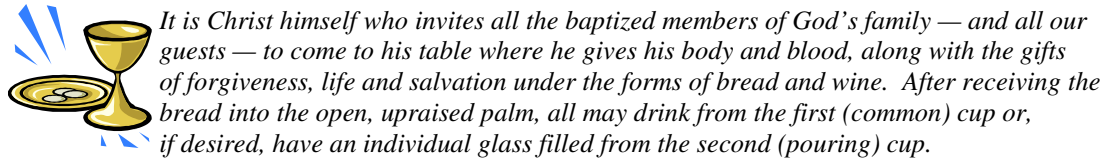
**Avalon Dairy Country Fair
Sunday, September 13
after church to 5:00 pm**

Any and all are invited!

**Have you signed up
in the worship leaders
sign up sheets
posted on the narthex
bulletin board?**

FRACTION

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



MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

#772 **“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”**

Children of the Holy Father

Don Hustad

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have rained down the true bread from heaven, the body and blood of your beloved Son. So by his promise bring us to abide in him, and he in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN #844 **“Praise to the Lord”**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to bear Christ's love to the world. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Rondeau

Henry Purcell

We would like to thank and welcome the **Rev. William Derby** and the **members of St. Thomas Anglican Church** for changing their worship time and place to accommodate Pr. Hergy's request for a joint service while Pr. Hergy is away.

Congratulations to **Jordan and Natasha** on the birth of their first child, **Elisa Antonia**, born on August 19th. Jordan is doing a documentary about Mikhail's sanctuary here at First Lutheran Church.

¹⁰My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;

¹¹for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

¹²The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

¹³The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

Response after reading: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: James 1:17–27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behaviour. Here, Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act — they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Response after reading: Thanks be to God.

LESSON HYMN #698 **“How Long, O God”**

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

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

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."²¹ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY #811 *“On My Heart”*

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.*

Let us pray for the unity of the church of Christ, and for all who struggle to understand God's word. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the earth and all its wonders, for good harvests and favourable weather. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the whole human family, for little children, for the aging, for all nations and cultures, and also for our enemies. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who suffer with HIV/AIDS or other diseases, with injuries or with ailments, with addictions or anxieties, joblessness or loneliness, despair or grief *especially...* God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for families, especially those enduring divorce; for struggling families and abusive families; also for newly formed families, for pregnant women and those in labour. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks for those who have died *especially...*, entrusting them to God's love. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you are near to us when we cry out to you. Into your embrace we commend all for whom we pray, through Christ and by the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Fur Elise* L. Van Beethoven

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, you open the doors of heaven, giving us every generous and perfect gift from above. Lift our eyes from the food that perishes, and nourish us now with the food that endures for eternal life, Jesus Christ our 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)

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.**