



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 4, 2009

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“Setting 8”

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

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favour of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Andante Religioso
O God Thou Faithful God

Alec Rowley
Flor Peeters

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

p. 94

GATHERING HYMN

#850 “When in Our Music God is Glorified”
(v. 3 - women; v. 4 - men; all sing last line)

GREETING/KYRIE

p. 184

HYMN OF PRAISE “This is the Feast”

p. 187

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

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



First Lutheran Church is a member of the British Columbia Synod (one of five regions) which make up the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) which in turn belongs to the Lutheran World Federation which represents the 80 million Lutherans around the world. For more information on the ministries of the ELCIC (office in Winnipeg, Manitoba), visit its website at www.elcic.ca. For similar information on the BC synod, visit its office in New Westminster or its website at www.bcsynod.org.

Financial support of our congregation's life and mission is provided by the donations of our members given in thankful response to the generosity shown by God in the gifts given to us. Offerings of any amount are gratefully accepted and joyfully spent in our service to Christ and to others.

Have you remembered First Lutheran in your will? Consider how a bequest or gift might continue supporting our mission and ministry.

Thanksgiving Sunday

Please remember that donations of non-perishable food items are welcome as part of our Thanksgiving offering next Sunday. Canned Goods, bags of rice or pasta, boxes or packages of cereal or soup — all are stored in our parish pantry until needed by those who come to our door looking for something to eat. Please be generous. Thank you.

New Directory

The draft of the Directory of Members and Friends is posted on the narthex bulletin board. Please check your information and make the necessary changes (if any). We are hoping to have the new directory distributed in your mailboxes next Sunday.

WORD

FIRST READING: Job 1:1–2

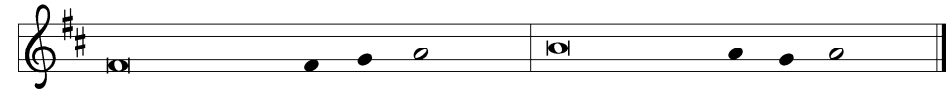
This passage is part of the prologue of Job. The righteous man Job is severely afflicted as the result of a wager between God and the satan (here not the devil, but “the accuser”). Job responds at first with great patience, but the rest of the book will show him lamenting and protesting.

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ²There were born to him seven sons and three daughters.

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

Psalm 26

Your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)



- ¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived ¹with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and ¹have not faltered.
- ²**Test me, O ¹LORD, and try me;**
examine my heart ¹and my mind.
- ³For your steadfast love is be- ¹fore my eyes;
I have walked faith- ¹fully with you.
- ⁴**I have not sat ¹with the worthless,**
nor do I consort with ¹the deceitful.
- ⁵I have hated the company of ¹evildoers;
I will not sit down ¹with the wicked.
- ⁶**I will wash my hands in inno- ¹cence, O LORD,**
that I may go in procession ¹round your altar,
- ⁷singing aloud a song ¹of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- ¹derful deeds.
- ⁸**LORD, I love the house in ¹which you dwell**
and the place where your glo- ¹ry abides.
- ⁹Do not sweep me a- ¹way with sinners,
nor my life with those who ¹thirst for blood,
- ¹⁰**whose hands are full of ¹evil plots,**
and their right hands ¹full of bribes.

You Count in Renfrew-Collingwood

On October 14, 2009 volunteers in Vancouver’s Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood will carry out a homeless count.

A number of concerned individuals, representing various groups and organizations in Renfrew-Collingwood, first met last May to discuss holding a homeless count in the neighbourhood. While Renfrew-Collingwood has a number of services that reach out to the homeless, resources for such services are always very limited. For example, since 2003 Collingwood Neighbourhood House (CNH) has offered a weekly shower-and-breakfast program for those who are homeless or living in poverty. At least 75 individuals visit the program each week and while most have roots in Renfrew-Collingwood --they were born here or have friends or family living here-- many find themselves existing in the Downtown Eastside. The program survives on volunteer efforts and donations of food, comfort kits (with personal hygiene materials such as toothbrushes and shampoo), clothing, towels and socks.

The committee felt that a count would provide baseline information, to help with planning for efficient and effective neighbourhood services and to strengthen local outreach. The committee also felt that the count could serve as a way to raise awareness about homelessness in the neighbourhood and to educate residents about homelessness prevention, supports and resource referral. It could also help to teach people how to engage appropriately with individuals who are homeless. Further, the committee hopes to create a map showing where there is potential housing stock locally, in order to improve the neighbourhood’s ability to house those who are homeless or tentatively housed in Renfrew-Collingwood.

The long-term vision is to make the count an annual one. This initial count will take place on October 14, 2009 from 6-8 am in the area bordered by Broadway, Boundary Road, East 45th Avenue and Nanaimo Street. It will include those who are found living on the street and, where possible, those who spent the night with friends because they do not have anywhere to live. Fifty teams of at least two people per team will receive training during the previous week and then carry out a count and brief interviews with the homeless they encounter in their assigned section of Renfrew-Collingwood. After the count has been completed, the committee will produce a report, with recommendations, to share.

If you would like to participate in the count, please fill out the Volunteer Recruitment Form available in the narthex and return it as directed. For further information, please contact Jennifer Gray-Grant jgg1@shaw.ca or 604-451-9855.

Thanks for your interest.

¹¹As for me, I will live ¹ with integrity;
redeem me, and be gra- ¹ cious to me.

¹²**I take my stand on ¹ level ground;
in the full assembly I will ¹ bless the LORD.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? ⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, ⁸subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

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

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

p. 188

GOSPEL: Mark 10:2–16

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

Response after announcement: Glory to you, O Lord.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

#608 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"

If With All Your Hearts (Elijah)

Mendelssohn

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN #629 "Abide with Me" (*v.3 - unaccompanied*)

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Sortie

Arcangelo Corelli

Announcements

This Week

Wednesday

Jewish-Christian dialogue
VST, 9-11 am

Adult ed event, 7:00 pm

Thursday

Choir rehearsal, 7:30 pm

Next Sunday

Sunday School, 9:15 am
(at St. Thomas Anglican)

Thanksgiving Sunday worship
10:30 am

OUR GUEST PREACHER

We would like to welcome and thank the **Rev. Jonathan Schmidt** for preaching this morning.

Jonathan is director of the Canadian Churches Forum for Global Ministries, a position he job shares with his wife, Alicia Schuda.

In the ELCIC, he has served as a pastor of St. John's Waterloo in Ontario and as a campus chaplain at University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University.

This weekend he is in Vancouver for meetings of the Anglican Church of Canada Partners in Mission and Ecojustice Committee.

Just to let everyone know that **Jackie** is now accepting orders of tourtierres. Anyone interested can see Jackie or give her a call.

For all who are ill, lonely, discouraged, friendless, mourning or broken in body or spirit, especially ... that your presence might sustain and strengthen them.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For grace to live with childlike wonder, offering our ministry to our community, that all may see how we can live together in love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In thanksgiving for renewers of church and society including *Francis of Assisi* and all our loved ones who live in the Lord, that their witness lead us to hope.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices* Paul Manz

OFFERTORY PRAYER

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING p. 190

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD’S PRAYER

FRACTION

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

“LAMB OF GOD” p. 191



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.

write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Response to conclusion: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY #723 *“Canticle of the Turning”*

INSTALLATION OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord of creation, with confidence in your abiding care, we are bold to pray for the world, the church, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

For your holy catholic church, calling the baptized into service for the kingdom's sake.

Protect and nourish it with faithful leaders who trust in you.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For commitment to planting trees, renewing forests, and sowing seeds for plentiful harvests, that there will be enough for all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who represent us in church agencies and international organizations,

that you bless their work of carrying life to broken people in broken lands.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For the poor, the homeless, the lonely, those who are refugees from their own families as well as those forced to leave their homelands, that your love in our hands will help bring restoration.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**