



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2022



WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDED IN 1890

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Vancouver BC V5R 3N3**

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YouTube: youtube.com/firstlutheranvancouver

First Lutheran is a community, a gathering of people of diverse ages, cultures and traditions. Just as Jesus opened himself to all and, by implication, opened the reign of God to all, so we, the members of First Lutheran seek to do the same.

All are welcome here regardless of their race, gender or sexual orientation; regardless of their social, economic, educational, linguistic or relationship status; regardless of their citizenship, religious or cultural background or makeup of their family; and regardless of their physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual condition. There is a place for you in our community worship, service and life. We have proudly served as a Reconciled in Christ Congregation since 2000.

We acknowledge that we gather, worship, work, and play on the unceded and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Watuth nations. We are committed to learning and raising awareness of our country's historical relationship with First Peoples and continue to work toward true Reconciliation.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Masks are no longer required while attending worship. As a sign of our care and love for one another, all those wishing to wear masks for their own and others' safety are welcome to do so. We strongly encourage all worshipers age 5 and up to be fully vaccinated.

Worship attendees will be greeted at the 42nd Avenue entrance off of the narthex when doors open at 10am. All are welcome to join us for conversation and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall downstairs after the service.

If you feel unwell for any reason or cannot follow our COVID restrictions, please remain at home and participate online. We will continue to stream our services via YouTube.

(www.youtube.com/firstlutheranchurchvancouver)

For your convenience, there is an elevator in the southwest corner of the building. Accessible, gender neutral washrooms are on the main floor in the northwest corner. There are additionally two washrooms down the stairs at the east end of the lower level. A wheelchair accessible entrance (also our office entrance) is located near the parking lot on the 42nd street side.





Those Serving the Servants Today

Presiding Minister	Mei Sum Lai	Usher	TBD
Assisting Minister	Marly Zell	Coffee Hour Hosts	Jack & Diana Kuyer
Lector	Heather Robbie		Marly Zell
Musician	Barry Waterlow	Livestream Tech	Alin Kutcheran
Cantor	Heidi Ackermann	Communion Set-Up	Carol Laslett

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 4, 2022 SETTING FIVE – HOLY COMMUNION

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with a heart for reconciliation that First Lutheran Church acknowledges that we meet and work and worship on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the Coast Salish peoples — the Musqueam, the Squamish, and the Tsleil-Waututh nations.

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(You are invited to stand)*

We light this Advent Wreath on the Second Sunday of the Advent season as a prayer of longing and hope, that God's glory may be revealed on earth through justice, peace and faithful love.



The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past and the dawn of your coming approaches. Bless us as we light this Advent Wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to welcome our Lord Jesus into our hearts and homes as our light and our salvation.

Living Christ, light of the world, give us the warmth of your love.
(Advent wreath is lit)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
Who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.



People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

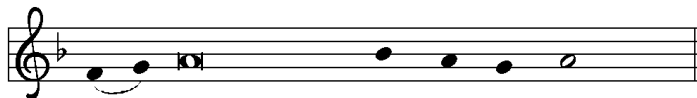
GATHERING SONG — On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (ELW 249)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

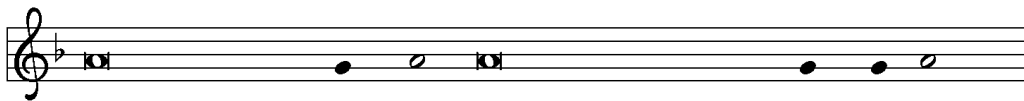


For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.





For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men.





CANTICLE OF PRAISE - Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (ACS 901)



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy



on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

(The Psalm will be spoken responsively. The congregation will speak the portions in bold print.)

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.





SECOND READING: Romans 1:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

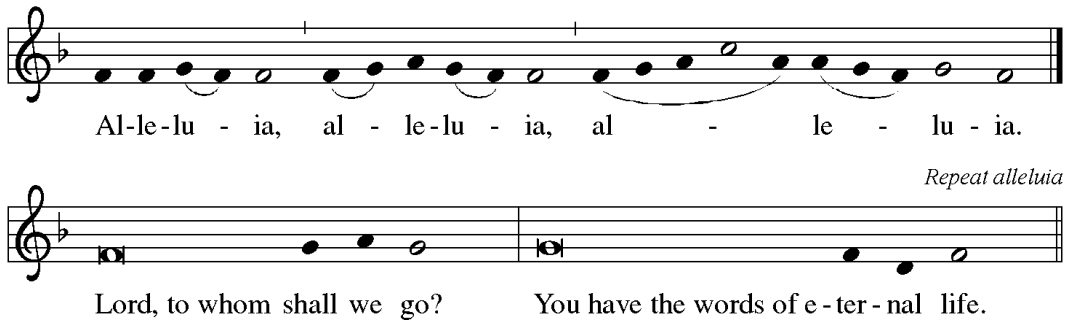
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able



from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ. (You may be seated)

SERMON—Rev. Mei Sum Lai

HYMN OF THE DAY — Let Justice Flow Like Streams (ELW 717)

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with the words, “God, in your mercy”. You are invited to respond “Hear our prayer”.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(You may share a sign of peace to those around you.)





OFFERING HYMN—We Are Waiting for Jesus (ACS 905)



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Saviour.

Amen.



MEAL

DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

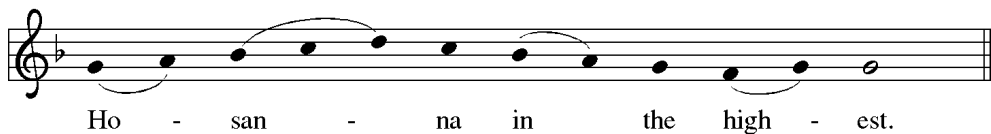
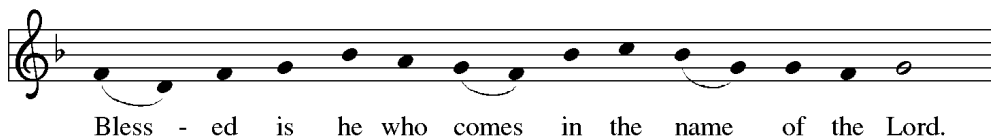
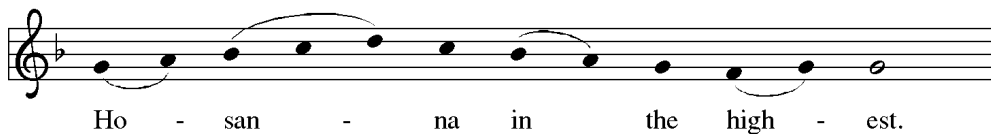
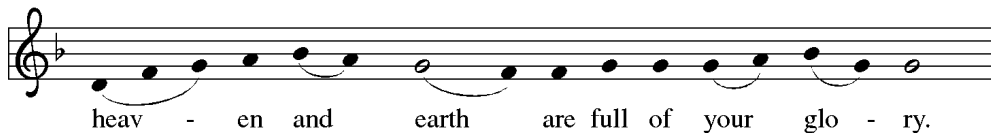
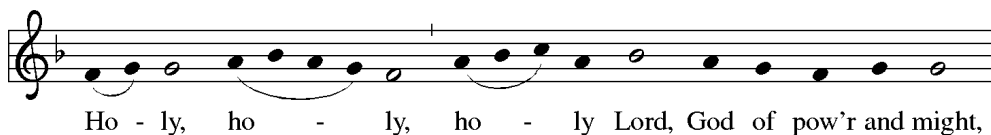
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

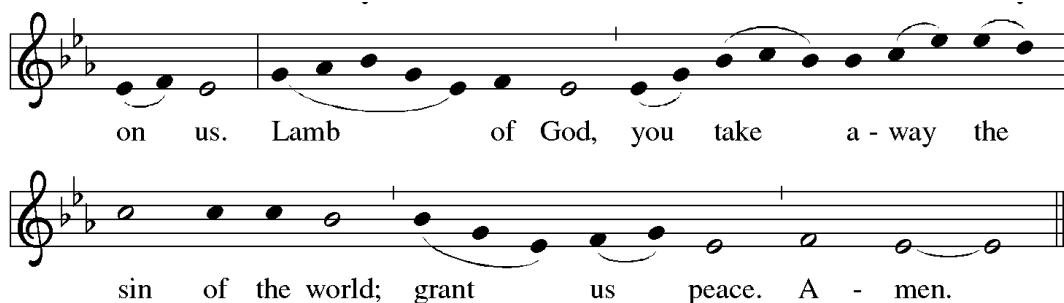
LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother, 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.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy





INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

(As a sign of abundant kindness & care for you, all those serving you communion will wear masks.)

COMMUNION HYMN—Come Now O Prince of Peace (ELW 247)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**



SENDING

BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
Who dwells with us in Jesus,
And who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ Bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN — The King Shall Come (ELW 260)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

Kirsten J. Sherry L. Basil A. Mike D.
Elina S. Jason S.





In Memoriam—Doreen Likness

It is with heavy hearts that we note the passing of Doreen Likness. She passed away last August at the age of 92. As we were not aware of this until recently, Doreen was not included in our All Saints remembrance.

UPCOMING AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Sunday, December 11th

3rd Sunday in Advent, 10:30am (Sanctuary / YouTube)

Coffee and Conversation, 11:30am (Social Hall)

Sunday, December 18th

4th Sunday in Advent, 10:30am (Sanctuary / YouTube)

Coffee and Conversation, 11:30am (Social Hall)

Saturday, December 24^h

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 4:30pm (Sanctuary / YouTube)

Sunday, December 25^h

Christmas Day Worship, 10:30am (Sanctuary / YouTube)

DIRECTORY

Ministers

Interim Pastor

Caretaker

Altar Guild Coordinator

Chancel Care

Envelope Secretary

Privacy Officer

God's People

Pr. David Lefsrud

Peter Dela Torre

Carol Laslett

Linda Collins

Gloria Tymm

Joel Westereng (privacy@firstlutheranvancouver.com)

CHURCH COUNCIL

Marly Zell

Joel Westereng

Heidi Ackermann

Sylvia Harris

Carol Laslett

Emmanuel Manu

Kirsten Jensen

Karl van Spronsen

Council Chair

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Treasurer + Stewardship & Finance Committee

Music & Worship Committee

Property Committee

Constitution + HR Committee

COVID Task Force Coordinator

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