



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Prelude: Allegretto - León Boëllmann, Andantino - César Franck

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. We thank them for their stewardship of the land and the water we all share.

GATHERING

Call to worship

Pastor In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.
And God called them good.

All: *Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.*

Pastor The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple,
and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

All: *Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.*

Pastor: Jesus cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...
Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”

All: *Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.*





Thanksgiving for the Waters

Confession and Forgiveness (*Assistant Minister*)

AM: Creator God, we lament that we have neglected this gift,
and taken the waters for granted. (*pause*)

AM: We look upon your waters, O God, and we grieve:
Rivers run polluted. Oceans choke with plastic.
Marine life disappears from warming seas.
Coral reefs fade, and fisheries collapse.

All: *Ashamnu*

AM: The seas rise and swallow coasts. Storms grow stronger.
Floods destroy homes. Drought cracks the Earth, and children
thirst.

All: *Ashamnu*

AM: We confess that we have not guarded your waters.
We have consumed water without restraint.
We have polluted what you called good.
We have forgotten that the river of life flows from your throne.

All: *Forgive us, O God.* (*pause*)

(*Absolution*) (*Pastor*)

Pastor: God's mercy flows like living water. The love of God,
incarnate in Jesus who spoke to troubled waters, forgives us
and calms our hearts so that justice may flow to all the dry
places in our lives. In the name of Christ +, may this grace free
us to follow and proclaim the good news of the healing of all
creation.

All: *Amen.*



Gathering Hymn__ In the Shadows of the Forest

Greeting (Tree of Life page 4)

Kyrie (Tree of Life page 4)

Glory to God (Tree of Life page 6)

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.



Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Tree of Life page 10)



Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord**

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of our Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.*

Homily – Rev. Nikkeya Berryhill



Hymn of the Day- Where Charity and Love Prevail (ELW 359)



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.
5 Let us for-give each oth-er's faults as we our own con-fess,



brought here to - geth-er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.



Apostle's Creed (Tree of Life page 12)

Prayers of Intercession

Peace



Offering Hymn- Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (ELW 207)

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Offering Prayer (Tree of Life page 13)

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving (ELW page 107)

Thanksgiving at the Table (ELW page 65)

Sanctus (ELW page 108)

The Lord's Prayer (Tree of Life page 17)

Lamb of God (Tree of Life booklet page 17)

Communion Hymn- By Your Hand (Tree of Life page 18)

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion



SENDING

Sending

Benediction

Sending Hymn- God's Work, Our Hands (ACS 1000)

Dismissal

Postlude: Dialogue - François D’Agincour

Those Serving the Servants Today

Presiding Minister	Rev. Nikkeya Berryhill	Livestream Tech	Emmanuel Manu
Minister of Music	Rachel Alflatt	Usher	Harry Mikelson
Assisting Minister	Heather Robbie	Communion Set-Up	Heidi Ackermann
Cantor	Heidi Ackermann	Communion Assist.	Aria
Lector	Heather Robbie	Coffee Hour Hosts	Felicia Quayson
			Emmanuel Manu