



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

TREE OF LIFE

Prelude: Pater Noster: Eight Pieces for Organ, No. 7 "Save Us from the Time of Trial" - Denis Bédard, Improvisation - Marc D'Anjou

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 live on and enjoy the benefits of land that was kept, guarded, and nurtured by peoples who lived in harmony with it since time immemorial. These peoples were displaced. Their cultural items were stolen. Their cultures and languages were forbidden. Their children were removed from their homes and families and their childhood was obliterated.

We would be naïve to suppose that the harms of colonialism are in the past. Indigenous peoples are incarcerated in much higher numbers





than the general population. Indigenous children make up the majority of children in government care, as well as childhood deaths while in government care. Too many indigenous women go missing and are murdered.

The Bible tells us that it can take seven generations to heal from a grievous sin. While it has been many more generations since that original sin against indigenous people on this continent, it can be argued that we have taken few, if any, steps to atone for the evil done to them. We owe it, not only to the Musqueam, the Squamish, and the Tsleil-Waututh nations to continue our journey of truth and reconciliation, but to our children and future generations, as well. For where we leave this work off, our children must take it up.

GATHERING

Litany of Lament and Repentance

Three candles are lit to represent the voices of Indigenous people, women and biodiversity

God of our vibrant world, You have given humans the responsibility to care for each other. Indigenous people have historical, spiritual, and personal ties to these lands on which we inhabit. But many of us have failed to recognise the presence of God in these traditions, and their voices have been silenced. We are thankful to Indigenous Nations for their continuing care and presence on the Earth. We all value the resilience and strength shown through the generations and today.

We turn to the Spirit who dismantles borders and celebrates life giving community.

Help us make a place where everyone is welcome and we acknowledge your grace at work in the ways of one another. Together, may we learn the spiritual richness of our relationships in the web of life. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**



O God of the whole of creation. You have created land and trees, animals and all living creatures on the earth. We are destroying the forests through poisons and logging, the voices of the birds, insects and forest dwellers are silenced. You created the wonders of the ocean, the fish, shells, reefs, whales, waves, corals. The oceans are warming and as they drown in plastic, their voices are being stilled.

We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

Please help us to care for the oceans, the land and the forest, and to recognise that it is your blessing for us. Creation is speaking to us, but their voices have been silenced by the roar of our greed. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Mothering Earth, our Sister, you sustain and govern us. We have silenced the voices of your people, especially the voices of women - protectors of the Earth who have been killed by land grabbers, mining companies, and oil companies. Many are the voices of our sisters who have been silenced by flooding, hurricanes and drought as the earth's warming brings destruction. May we listen to the voices of our mothers and sisters and learn to treasure and protect the web of life. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

We turn to you in sorrow and repentance.

Please, Creator God, forgive us for the human activities which have overpowered the weather and caused destruction of our environment. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

(Adapted from a Prayer of Lament written by members of the four Religious Orders in the Anglican Church of Melanesia. Melanesian Brotherhood, Society of St Francis, Community of the Sisters of the Church, Community of the Sisters of Melanesia)





A time of silence is kept as people go forward to extinguish candles in memory of communities that are being wiped out by environmental degradation and creatures that are becoming extinct. For the voices of women, indigenous people and creation that have been silenced.

Turn us O God, from our desire to turn in upon ourselves, to refuse to hear the voices of our co-creatures. Call us again, open our ears. Gather us in to relationships of mutual care and listening. Enlighten us by your Spirit that renews the face of your Earth. Amen.

Gathering Hymn- Let Justice Roll Like a River (RW 242)

Greeting

Kyrie (P.4)

This is the Feast (P. 8)

Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,





⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.
Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.
¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in



unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

Gospel Acclamation (P. 10)

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

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

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house ²⁸ for I



have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

Sermon- Rev. David Lefsrud

Hymn of the day – Wind and Cold Roar (ACS 1010)

Apostles’ Creed (P. 12)

Prayers of Intercession

MEAL

Peace

Offering Hymn– Come Let Us Bring (P.13)

Offering Prayer (P.13)

Great Thanksgiving (P.14)

Holy, Holy, Holy (P.14)

Lord's Prayer (P.17)

Lamb of God (P.17)

Communion Hymn- By Your Hand You Feed Your People (P.18)

Prayer after Communion (P.19)



SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn- Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)

Dismissal

Postlude: Pater Noster: Eight Pieces for Organ, No. 2 "Hallowed Be Your Name" - Denis Bédard

Those Serving the Servants Today

Presiding Minister	Rev. David Lefsrud	Livestream Tech	Emmanuel Manu
Minister of Music	Rachel Alflatt	Usher	-
Guest Organist	Marc D'Anjou	Communion Set-Up	Heidi Ackermann
Assisting Minister	Sylvia Harris	Communion Assist.	Aria
Cantor	Heidi Ackermann	Coffee Hour Hosts	Harry Mikelson
Lector	Paul Schmidt		Emmanuel Manu

