



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 19, 2023

**WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOUNDED IN 1890**

**5745 Wales Street
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	Drew Nicholson
Assisting Minister	-	Coffee Hour Hosts	Michael Ray
Minister of Music	Rachel Alflatt		Eulalie Niyungeko
Cantor	Arvid Vimb	Livestream Tech	Emmanuel Manu
Lector	Arvid Vimb	Communion Set-Up	Claire Landry

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SETTING ONE – HOLY COMMUNION

PRELUDE

Adagio and Poème

Denis Bédard

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 Tseil-Waututh nations.





GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

† forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN— Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (ELW 843)





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

P. 98

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not





look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me be- side still waters.**

You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear
no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;





you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore, it says, “Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P. 103

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar





began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have





told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON—Rev. Mei Sum Lai

HYMN OF THE DAY — Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779)

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, "Merciful God". You are invited to respond "Receive 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 PRAYER

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings



as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

MEAL

DIALOG

P. 107

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

P. 108

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P.111

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...

... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life...





Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread...
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

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

P. 112

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.



COMMUNION HYMN — Here Is Bread (ELW 483)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN — Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (ELW 334)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Moderato and Vivo from Variations on "Amazing Grace" - Denis Bédard





ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY March BIRTHDAY TO:

Sylvia S.

Alex W.

Linda C.

Jessica S.

Ernie N.

Les S.

UPCOMING AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Sunday, March 26

Fifth Sunday of Lent, 10:30am (Sanctuary / YouTube)

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

Saturday, April 1

Church Clean-up Day 9:30 am – 2:30 p.m.

Inside and Outside

Just show up when you can!

Pizza will be provided for lunch

UPCOMING AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Dear First Lutheran Church, a gracious WELCOME to our cultural sharing...

You are invited to eat with us on **Thursday April 20 at 8pm**, when we break our fast. During our holiest month of Ramadan we pray and eat together daily at FLC (downstairs). Please tell FLC office if you will attend by **Monday 17** to help us plan food amount. This invitation is open to ALL at First Lutheran Church (English & Bengali will be spoken)

Dinner is free. (Donations gratefully accepted)

Dr. Ahad,

Baitul Mukarram

Home on Native Land

You are invited to join members of First Lutheran Reconciliation Committee for round table discussions during coffee in the Easter Season. Beginning **April 16th**, we will discuss questions from the self-guided course <https://homeonnativeland.com/>

DIRECTORY

Ministers	God's People
Interim Pastor	Pr. David Lefsrud
Office Administrator	Farzan
Caretaker	Peter Dela Torre
Altar Guild Coordinator	Carol Laslett
Chancel Care	Linda Collins
Envelope Secretary	Gloria Tymm
Privacy Officer	Joel Westereng (privacy@firstlutheranvancouver.com)

CHURCH COUNCIL

Marly Zell	Council Chair
Joel Westereng	Vice Chair + Education Committee
Emmanuel Manu	Secretary + Property Committee
Carol Laslett	Music & Worship Committee
Harry Mickelson	Visioning Committee
Julie Bauming	Member at Large

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