



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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MARCH 26, 2023

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

**5745 Wales Street  
Vancouver BC V5R 3N3**

**PH: 604.435.6020**

**info@firstlutheranvancouver.com**

**www.firstlutheranvancouver.com**

**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](http://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	David Lefsrud	Usher	Michael Ray
Assisting Minister	Arvid Vimb	Coffee Hour Hosts	Heather Robbie
Minister of Music	Rachel Alflatt		Drew Nicholson
Cantor	Heidi Ackermann	Livestream Tech	Alin Kucheran
Lector	Heather Robbie	Communion Set-Up	Carol Laslett

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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 26, 2023

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### **PRELUDE**

Pavane – Newman

Lord Jesus, I Cry to You - J. S. Bach

### **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**

**GATHERING HYMN— Healer of Our Every Ill (ELW 612)**





## **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.**

## **WORD**

**FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel.





They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 130**

Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

**O LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

**in order that you may be feared.**

I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**

**more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;  
with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

**For the LORD shall redeem Israel  
from all their sins.**





## **Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11**

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason, the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P. 103

### **Gospel: John 11:1-45**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.



Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet



come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON—Rev. David Lefsrud**







## **HYMN OF THE DAY — We Come to You for Healing, Lord (ELW 617)**

### **HEALING INTRODUCTION**

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

### **HEALING PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition ends with the words, “God of infinite grace”. 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.)*

### **LAYING ON OF HANDS**

*Response: Amen.*

## **HYMN DURING LAYING ON OF HANDS -Jesus, Remember Me (ELW 616)**

## **MEAL**

### **DIALOG**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

P. 107





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.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.





Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
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 — There Is a Balm in Gilead (ELW 614)**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, constant source of all healing,  
we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life,  
and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son,  
through whom we have health and salvation.  
As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain,  
help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives  
and to trust in your eternal love.  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**



# SENDING



## **BLESSING**

The God of all consolation bless you in every way,  
grant you hope all the days of your life,  
restore you to health and grant you salvation,  
fill your heart with peace,  
and lead you to eternal life.

Almighty God bless you, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN — I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (ELW611)**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Introduction and Fugue in A minor

John Stanley





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HAPPY March BIRTHDAY TO:**

*Sylvia S.*

*Alex W.*

*Linda C.*

*Jessica S.*

*Ernie N.*

*Les S.*

## UPCOMING AT FIRST LUTHERAN

**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

*Please advise Donna D. of your pizza preference in person*

Or at [ddufr@hotmail.com](mailto:ddufr@hotmail.com)

**Sunday, April 2**

**Palm Sunday**, 10:30am (Sanctuary / YouTube)

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

## UPCOMING AT FIRST LUTHERAN

### 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/>

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



# 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 ( <a href="mailto:privacy@firstlutheranvancouver.com">privacy@firstlutheranvancouver.com</a> )

## 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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