



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Prelude: Invocation - 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 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__ Many and Great, O God (ELW 837)




Wa - kan - tan - ka ta - ku ni - ta - wa tan - ka - ya
 1 Man - y and great, O God, are your works, mak - er of
 2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O Star - a -



qa o - ta. Ma - hpi - ya kin e - ya - hna - ke ca,
 earth and sky. Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
 bid - ing One. Come un - to us and dwell with us;



ma - ka kin he du - o - wan - ca. Mni - o - wan
 your fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your
 with you are found the gifts of . . . life. Bless us with



ca - šbe - ya - wan - ke cin, he - na o - ya - ki - hi.
 word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.
 life that has no . . . end, e - ter - nal life with you.





Greeting (Tree of Life page 4)

Kyrie (Tree of Life page 4)

Glory to God (Tree of Life page 6)

Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?



³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,





¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only
in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own
salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you,
enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Gospel Acclamation (Tree of Life page 10)

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

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

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the
people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are
you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to
them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I
will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of
John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with
one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did
you not believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of
the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus,
“We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what
authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and
said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’” ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’

but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Homily – Rev. Nikkeya Berryhill

Hymn of the Day__ On Eagle's Wings (ELW 787)

Apostle's Creed (Tree of Life page 12)

Prayers of Intercession

Peace

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

Offering Prayer (Tree of Life page 13)

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving (ELW page 107)

Sanctus (ELW page 108)

Thanksgiving at the Table (ELW page 65)

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

Lamb of God (Tree of Life page 17)





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

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Benediction

Let Justice Roll Like a River

Dismissal

Postlude: Prelude in G minor - J. S. Bach

Those Serving the Servants Today

Presiding Minister	Rev. Nikkeya Berryhill	Livestream Tech	Kevin Li
Minister of Music	Rachel Alflatt	Usher	Harry Mickelson
Assisting Minister	Sylvia Harris	Communion Set-Up	Gloria Tymm
Cantor	Heidi Ackermann	Communion Assist.	Aria
Lector	-	Coffee Hour Hosts	Lorna Hau Harvey Wanger