

Sunday July 5, 2020
Living Faith Lutheran Church, Sechelt BC

Welcome!

Opening our hearts to the Triune God:

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

**All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

The Lord is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

(Psalm 145:8-14)

Hymn: 864 – Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring,
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!

God be praised for grace and favour to our forebears in distress,
God be praised, the same forever, slow to chide and quick to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

Frail as summer's flower we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone;
But, as mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the great Eternal One!

Angels sing in adoration, in God's presence face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Prayer of Approach

You, O God, lead us to places of stillness and beauty,
You open our senses to your glory revealed in tree and bird and lapping
waves.
You remind us of paths travelled and new paths to come.
You guide us by Word and Sacrament, by the faithful lives of the saints.
In Jesus, you reveal your eternal love and compassion;
By your Spirit you equip us to lead lives of courage and service.
Triune God, in this place, in our homes, wherever we might be, we are
blessed to be in your presence this day.

Before your holiness, we confess those things that hinder us and pray for
grace that will help us . . .

For the right roads we avoid travelling,
And the kindly words we refuse to share,
For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly,
For our careless use of time and money,
For hasty judgments over the plight of others,
(Silence . . .)
God, by your grace,
Forgive us.

For all we should be
And all we can amend,
God in your love,
Renew us

For all you have in store for us,
And all you may demand of us,
God in your love,
Prepare us

For the life of the world
And the life of its people

God in your love,
Commit us

The Assurance of Pardon

And Jesus said:

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Ponder your forgiveness as rest – removing the burden of sin, doubt, worry, fear – and rest in the grace and mercy of Jesus' love for us. **Amen**

Song 185 - Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Scripture Lessons (Response: Thanks be to God!)

Hosea 11: 1-9

Romans 7: 11-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sermon: Would someone please make up my mind?

Musical reflection

The Peace

The Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Intercession:

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Remind us that we share this planet with all your creatures which bring you delight, yet too many suffer. Guide us to be passionate stewards of your precious gifts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Free us from patriotism that hinders relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for Canada and our friends in the United States as we observe our national holidays. You have blessed us with peace, freedom and prosperity. Yet these are days when we humble ourselves as we face the challenges of a pandemic, racial injustice and added burdens on the poor and vulnerable. Bless our leaders with wisdom, our people with compassion, and deepen our faith in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed (silence). Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember the nations who do not share our blessings; places where health care, food and security are lacking. Make us mindful of their needs, generous in our giving, and seekers after justice for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this congregation. Bless our pastor, deacons, and congregational leaders. Though we are divided by physical distance, keep us united in spirit and faith. Shine in this place that we can continue to experience the ways your love transforms our lives. And hear us as we name those whose needs are heavy on our hearts this day . . .

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith. (Silence) Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn 787 – On Eagle’s Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in this shadow for life,
Say to the lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”

Refrain:

And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breathe of dawn,

Make you to shine like the sun,

And hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear;

Under God’s wings your refuge, and faithfulness your shield. (Refrain)

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day.
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. (Refrain)

For to the angels God’s given a command to guard you in all of your ways,

Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breathe of dawn,

Make you to shine like the sun,

And hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Blessing and Dismissal