

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Living Faith Lutheran Church, Sechelt, BC**  
**October 4, 2020**  
***Worldwide Communion Sunday***

*This morning we join with churches around the world in sharing the meal of unity. Our thanks to the Rev. Glenn Inglis for presiding at the table and for proclaiming the good news of God's love for us. This divine love is shown in the giving of Christ to the world and Christ's presence in the world, a living and loving presence seen, found and tasted in the food he provides for our peace, strength, forgiveness and ministry to the world.*

**Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**GATHERING**

**Gathering Song**

## #858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining.
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

**Greeting** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the company of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also  
with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the  
inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your  
merciful guidance, help us to do them,  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

## **WORD**

*The response to the call "Word of God. Word of Life" is **Thanks be to  
God.***

**First Lesson**

Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20

**Then God spoke all these words:**

**<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.**

**<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.**

**<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.**

**<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.**

**<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.**

**<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.**

**<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

**<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

**<sup>18</sup>When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, <sup>19</sup>and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." <sup>20</sup>Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."  
*Word of God. Word of Life.***

## **Second Lesson          Philippians 3:4b-14**

**If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.**

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## **Lesson Hymn**

### **#793 Be Thou My Vision**

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*The response to the announcement of the Gospel reading is **Glory to you, O Lord.***

*The response at the close of the reading is **Praise to you, O Christ.***

## **Holy Gospel**

Matthew 21:33-46

<sup>3</sup>Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. <sup>34</sup>When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup>But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup>Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup>Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' <sup>38</sup>But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' <sup>39</sup>So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup>Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" <sup>41</sup>They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

<sup>43</sup>Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. <sup>44</sup>The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

<sup>45</sup>When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup>They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

*This is the good news of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

## **Sermon**

**Music for Reflection: Jesu, joy of man's desiring**

*With the whole church in heaven and on earth, let us confess our faith*

## **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**

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard.  
Refresh the church  
with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your  
mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation (*especially Francis of Assisi, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world leaders seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling today (*especially. . .*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all managers in our community and for all who seek employment. Give hope and a future to those who lack meaningful work, those who have been marginalized or abused in the workplace, and those who desire new opportunities. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard, (*especially. . .Martin Luther, John Calvin, Pope Francis, Bishops Susan, Greg, Kathy and Melissa and those who have touched our hearts, corrected our paths, and made of us willing disciples*). May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Sharing of the Peace**

## Offering Prayer

***God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.***

## MEAL

### Presider speaks

***God is with us always and everywhere. In this meal, that holy presence is made both specific and universal. It is specific because it is given to us in the simple gifts of the earth, and it is universal by being made known to all through our sharing with others the blessings we ourselves have received. With that promise of God's presence and power at work in, with and through us, we consecrate the bread and wine along with ourselves and are blessed to be a blessing.***

### Prayer over the gifts of bread and wine

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.**

**Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.  
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.**

**Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love,  
O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now  
and forever. Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Fraction (*Breaking of the Bread*)**

**The gifts of God for the beloved children of God. Thanks be to God.**

### **Invitation to the Table**

**Come, for all is prepared. Taste the goodness and grace of God.**

**Sharing of the Bread**  
**(#472 Eat This Bread – repeating)**

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”

**Prayer after Communion**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared  
in the sight of ev'ry people:  
a light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.

**SENDING**

**Benediction**

**Sending Song**  
**# 482 I Come with Joy**

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.
  
- 2 I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.

- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.
  
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.
  
- 5 Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

## **Dismissal**

## **Postlude**

### ***Announcements which need to be made:***

Next Sunday, October 11, is Thanksgiving Sunday. Pastor Hergy will be presiding and preaching. On the following Sunday, October 18, Heidi Magnuson-Ford will be leading our worship.

At 2 p.m. on that Sunday afternoon, October 18, the Annual General Meeting of Living Faith Lutheran Church will take place on Zoom. The invitation to join that “virtual” meeting will be sent out online a few days prior to the meeting to all those who have computers, tablets or smart phones.

Our apologies to those who will not be able to participate online, but an “in-person” meeting is simply impossible these days. For those who do not have a copy of the 2019 Annual Report, copies may be accessed online at our parish website or they are available today on a table beside the rear

double exit doors. Thank you for your understanding and your participation.

At this past week's meeting of Church Council, the decision was made to resume some rentals—specifically, the twice-monthly AA meetings—with very specific protocol in place. That decision will be revisited on a regular basis if and when provincial health authorities provide additional information regarding indoor gatherings.