

**Living Faith Lutheran Church
National Indigenous Day Service
Sunday, June 27, 2021**

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit of Creator be with you.

And also with you.

Come let us worship the Creator with hearts open to all peoples;

Let us worship Creator with minds open to the wisdom of Indigenous people,

Let us honour the One who freely gives by showing honour to those who were once and still remain oppressed.

Let us worship the God of diversity, who made the world in colour, in seasons and endless variety, who created the diversity of the earth's peoples in Creator's image.

We were created to honour one another and in so doing we honour the Creator;

We praise God who creates life, Jesus who redeems life, and Spirit who makes all life new.

All my relations.

Hymn #740 God of the Sparrow

- 1 God of the sparrow
God of the whale
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

- 2 God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature say Woe
How does the creature say Save

- 3 God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

- 4 God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

- 5 God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

- 6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

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

Creator, our Scriptures tell us Jesus sat within the circle of his friends. In this place, and in our homes, we too join this sacred circle with Jesus as our centre. Make us mindful that the Spirit wants us ever to widen the circle and exclude no one. Help us to reflect upon times when the Church narrowed the circle to a favoured few; times when we closed our hearts to people who were not like us. Renew us, Creator, in heart, mind and spirit, so we can be the people who reach out to others in love, service and peace. May the Circle be unbroken.
All my relations.

WORD**First Reading****Isaiah 40:25-31**

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading**Galatians 3.23-29**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Mark 7:24-30 Glory to you, O Lord

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

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

Hymn of the Day #703

O God, Why Are You Silent



1 O God, why are you si - lent? I can - not hear your voice;
2 My hope lies bruised and bat - tered, my wound - ed heart is torn;
3 Through end - less nights of weep - ing, through wea - ry days of grief,
4 May pain draw forth com - pas - sion, let wis - dom rise from loss;



the proud and strong and vio - lent all claim you and re - joice;
my spir - it spent and shat - tered by life's re - lent - less storm;
my heart is in your keep - ing, my com - fort, my re - lief.
oh, take my heart and fash - ion the im - age of your cross;



you prom - ised you would hold me with ten - der - ness and care.
will you not bend to hear me, my cries from deep with - in?
Come, share my tears and sad - ness, come, suf - fer in my pain,
then may I know your heal - ing through heal - ing that I share,



Draw near, O Love, en - fold me, and ease the pain I bear.
Have you no word to cheer me when night is clos - ing in?
oh, bring me home to glad - ness, re - store my hope a - gain.
your grace and love re - veal - ing, your ten - der - ness and care.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612
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Affirmation of Faith: A Pilgrim's Creed

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith.

All We are a community of faith.

**We share a vision of God: a God whose spirit is love,
accessible to all yet beyond our knowing, the source of all being,
the way leading to wholeness, the spirit which pervades everything.**

**We are reborn in the Spirit, followers of that Way shown by Jesus:
to love God with our whole being; to love our neighbours as ourselves;
to treat others as we would have them treat us; to strive for justice and peace;
to have respect and compassion for every person and for the whole of creation;
to forgive those who do us harm; to love one another as Christ has loved us.**

We journey together on this Way towards reconciliation with the whole creation.

We break bread together and pray together.

We reach out to one another for strength beyond our own.

This is our community. This is our faith.

Prayers of the Community

Let us come before the Triune God in prayer.

A brief silence

God of creation, who looked upon all you had fashioned and called it good; may we also learn to honour what you have fashioned, that the blessings of clean air, fresh water, bountiful oceans and fertile lands may bless and provide for all your creatures, and create in us gratitude and joy for our daily bread. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, teach us to treasure and protect all your creatures on this planet who suffer from the stresses of heat and drought, lack of wilderness and our wanton predation. Help us to widen our circle of love for all creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all peoples, you created us from the dust and to dust we shall return. Heal our divisions, our racial pride and judgment of others. When one group uses power to control, hurt and dominate others, the circle of right relationship is broken, and evil is given room to grow. Help us to resist the powers of evil that weaken, distort and destroy just relationship with First Nations people. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, in Jesus' death you have defeated death and in his resurrection we all share in the hope of eternal life. Bestow your healing compassion upon Indigenous families who mourn the death of children denied human dignity in the Residential Schools. May we help to carry their sorrow and right the wrongs that have destroyed cultures of peoples who have known you in creations, community and family. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, today we mourn the death of one close to us, Gwen Hawkins. We rejoice in her faithfulness, service to you through this congregation and the wider Church, her good humour and wit, and her joy in family and friends. For all the good we have received through her generosity of spirit, we praise and give thanks. Comfort Ed and family members who grieve and may they, with us, put our whole trust in your great mercy and power revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus. He knows his sheep by name and not one of them will be lost. And we remember others who have left this life to be with you . . . Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing mercy, we give thanks for those who have guided our nation through the turmoil of the Covid 19 pandemic. Bless the researchers, the medical staff, the public health workers – all who selflessly strive to bring us health and hope. And hear us as we bring to you names of those whose needs are upon our hearts this day . . . Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the future, help us to carry out the resolves that we make; to seek reconciliation and peace; and to befriend the friendless and forsaken. May it be so, **Amen**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace/Offering

Musical reflection as the table is set for the holy meal

MEAL

Offertory Prayer: *Please rise if you are able*

Jesus, Bread of life,

You have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the gifts of God

You are indeed the holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Life-Creator, Pain-Bearer and Hope-Bringer, be all honour and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**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 you, the beloved children (or people) of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Invitation to the Holy Supper

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come for all is ready!

“Lamb of God”

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sharing of the Meal *Directions for distribution will be given. All are invited to the table. Music will be played until all have been fed with the bread of heaven*

Prayer after the Meal *Please rise in body or spirit*

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen**

Benediction: You are chosen to bring peace where there is conflict; comfort, where there is sorrow; healing to the wounded; and presence to the love of Christ for all. In the name of the Triune God of Life.

Amen!

Sending Hymn #729 The Church of Christ, in Every Age

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
 beset by change, but Spirit-led,
 must claim and test its heritage
 and keep on rising from the dead.
- 2 Across the world, across the street,
 the victims of injustice cry
 for shelter and for bread to eat,
 and never live before they die.
- 3 Then let the servant church arise,
 a caring church that longs to be
 a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
 and clothed in Christ's humanity.
- 4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
 can cure the fever in our blood,
 and teach us how to share our bread
 and feed the starving multitude.

5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

Dismissal Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude