

25th Sunday after Pentecost
A Celebration of and A Call to Faithful Stewardship
November 14, 2021
Living Faith Lutheran Church, Davis Bay, BC

Preservice Music/Announcements

Welcome

In this time and place, we gather together
on the unceded ancestral lands of the shíshálh Nation.

**With people from many places and times,
we come to this house of prayer.**

In this time and place,
we meet in the presence of the living God.
The living God who creates us and all that is.

In this time and place,
the risen Christ stands in our midst.,
The risen Christ who accompanies us and all people.

In this time and place,
God's Holy Spirit breathes in and through us.
The Holy Spirit who transforms us and all life.

In this time and place, together, one people of God.
**In the name of God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures
from generation to generation. **Amen.**
Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

Reconciling God,
**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**
We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live
and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint, because God's love
has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Song #687 “Come to Us, Creative Spirit”

- 1 Come to us, creative Spirit, in this holy house;
 ev'ry human talent hallow, hidden skills arouse,
 that within your earthly temple, wise and simple, may rejoice.

- 2 Poet, painter, music-maker, all your treasures bring;
 craftsman, actor, graceful dancer, make your offering;
 join your hands in celebration: let creation shout and sing!

- 3 Word from God eternal springing, fill our minds, we pray;
 and in all artistic vision give integrity:
 may the flame within us burning kindle yearning day by day.

- 4 In all places and forever glory be expressed
 to the Son, with God the Father and the Spirit blest:
 in our worship and our living keep us striving for the best.

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

**O God, you show forth your power
chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy.
Grant us the fullness of your grace,
strengthen our trust in your promises,
and bring all the world to share
in the treasures that come
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Reading 1 Kings 17:8-16

⁸Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁹Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you. ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink."

¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." ¹²But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." ¹³Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth."

¹⁵She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

The word of our God. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Psalm 146 (*Women: Odd verses; Men – Even verses*)

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

*⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.*

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

*⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;*

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

*The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.*

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰**The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!**

The word of our God. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia verse **“Hallelujah!” by Leonard Cohen** (*Chorus only*)

Holy Gospel Mark 12:38-44

Response to the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

3

⁸As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

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

A Call to Faithful and Generous Stewardship David Magnuson-Ford

Song of the Day #679 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
 For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
 For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
 silent growth while we are sleeping,
 future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

- 2 In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
 In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
 In our worldwide task of caring
 for the hungry and despairing,
 in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Affirmation of Faith (Iona Community)

**We believe in God above us, Maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of compassion, he died forsaken;
he descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb;
he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present;
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen**

Prayers of the Community

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need, saying "Hear us, O God" and responding "**Your mercy is great**". *A brief silence is kept*

We give you thanks for Canadian Lutheran World Relief and other social ministries of the church around the world and for every ministry that heals, lifts up, and empowers those who are poor, oppressed, abused, abandoned, or ignored. Build up your ministries and prosper all works of mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the bounty of creation and a world of abundance. Protect the earth from all who would devour its resources. Create and strengthen sustainable communities who honour your creation with loving care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for leaders who seek peace for all nations and lead efforts toward greater justice. Accompany all who suffer the wounds of war, with veterans and their families and loved ones who carry battle scars from the past, and all who promote peace today. Particularly do we pray for those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by war and civil strife, especially in Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for plentiful harvests and generous hearts. Send needed resources and caring neighbors to all those in need. We pray for refugees, orphans, widows, those unemployed, those suffering abuse, and all who are in need. Restore to health all who are sick in any way, especially Erika, Dorothy, Ingrid, Ed, Bud, Pam, Terry, Tory, Linda, Al, Nicholas, Connie. . .and those whose names are known only to us and to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, taught and supported us and our ministries in the past and who do so now. Especially we give thanks for the generosity, gratitude, caring and sharing shown by Gwen, Freda, Hildegard and those whom we name before you now aloud or in silence,. . .Comfort all who are dying, all who grieve, and all who continue to give of themselves even though the cost may be great. Keep us all faithful and grateful until you gather us in your heavenly home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace/Offering *A musical reflection is played*

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.**

**Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher,
your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word.
All that has life and breath praises your name.
For your Word that sustains the earth, we thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry,
preached your mercy, and called us to faith.
For your Word in our Lord Christ, we praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word,
that we may grow in grace, bearing the fruits of redemption,
and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world.
For your Word in our lives, we entreat you, O God.
We entreat you, O God.

Accept our thanksgiving and receive our prayer,
for the sake of your living Word, Jesus our Saviour. **Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song #535 “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

The refrain and verses are repeated each time

Refrain

Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.
Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness. **Repeat**

- 1 Christ the Lord to us said:
I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread,
give to all who thirst and hunger.
Repeat verse and then sing Refrain 2x
- 2 Now he sends us all out,
strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt.
Tell to all the joyful gospel.
Repeat verse and then sing Refrain 2x

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ
and you bear Christ to share Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude