



Sunday, October 12, 2025
18th Sunday After Pentecost
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELW 8HC

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(ELW p. 94)

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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 Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (ELW 693)

1 Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in

ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3 For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.

Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!

GREETING

(ELW p. 184)

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

KYRIE

(ELW p. 184)

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the
poor;

that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the
Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

(ELW p. 187)

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**2. Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honour, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 188)

Let us pray.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

Canon of Thanks

1 Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord,
thank you, Lord,
I just want to thank you, Lord.

2 Been so good, been so good,
been so good,
I just want to thank you, Lord.

3 Been my friend, been my friend,
been my friend,
I just want to thank you, Lord.

4 Love you, Lord, love you, Lord,
love you, Lord,
I just want to thank you, Lord.

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. As they bring their offerings, worshipers remember and proclaim God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ "When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that

time and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.'

⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house."

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

PSALM: Psalm 100

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving.

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all you lands!

² Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence | with a song.

³ **Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom | we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep | of God's pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving.

⁴ Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the | courts with praise;

give thanks and bless God's | holy name.

⁵ **Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is | everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from | age to age.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving.

Paul urges the Christians at Philippi to rejoice, to be thankful, and to dwell on everything worthy of praise.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-9

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW p. 188)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

The day after he multiplies bread to feed five thousand people, Jesus is pursued by the crowds clamoring for more bread. Recalling the

image of manna in the wilderness, Jesus promises to provide the true bread from heaven that will never fail. Jesus himself is that bread of life.

GOSPEL: John 6:25-35

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵ When [the disciples] found [Jesus] on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” ³² Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” ³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

A Message We Have To Share

Titus 3:3-8 (The Message) It wasn't so long ago that we ourselves were stupid and stubborn, easy marks for sin, ordered every which way by our glands, going around with a chip on our shoulder, hated and hating back. But when God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, he saved us from all that. It was all his doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with him and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life! You can count on this.

If I won a million dollars it would be really hard for me to not tell everyone who knew me. What about you? If something really great happened to you would you not tell everyone; family, friends, acquaintances and work mates. I hate spreading bad news and gossip. But happy stuff, that's what I am really inspired to share as much as I can.

Some very spectacular and great news that I also love to share as much as I can would be the gospel. The Good News of the New Testament which tells us about God's great love for us that moved God to send Jesus who accomplished through the cross all that was needed to restore our relationship with God. It is the Good News about God sending us our helper and advocate and friend the Holy Spirit who has the power to miraculously transform dead and lost people with stone hearts into people with new hearts of flesh and of love. Transformed people will be the ones to transform the whole world. Anything less than God's transforming work in us will not get the word out my friends. People transformed by the

power of love will transform people who are not yet ignited by that fire power of love. Gratitude and thanksgiving motivate us to desire others to have that wonderful gift as well. That is what this weekend is about. Giving thanks to God for all of God's good and gracious blessings.

We have come to the last step in the 12 Step program of transforming hopeless, addicted and burned out people into people with new hearts of love given to them by the Holy Spirit. The reading from Titus that I began with talks about transformation. All of our dysfunction and problems are at their basis spiritual problems- problems of the heart. AA and all 12 Step groups seek the same outcome which is an inner transformation and a taming of our ego - our selfish identity which is a false identity. And then those groups of thankful and transformed people want to spread the word to all who will listen. There is hope and healing and a totally new life for all who have not heard about the transforming power of God's love.

The last step in the program is step 12: "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others [our fellow sufferers], and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Sharing what we have been given is vitally important for us in the Body of Christ. In fact, it will be very hard for us to hang on to and keep the new life we have in Christ if we are not sharing it. We may become complacent and forgetful of all we have been freely given. The attitude of gratitude will keep us excited about the great good news we have been entrusted with to share and spread throughout the whole world.

Aaron Libby is an example of how a person is prompted to share a message with those who need to hear. Aaron was hit head on by a drunk driver and was so injured and mangled that it took years of operations and rehab just to be able to do the basics of life. He suffers daily with pains

and disabilities which he will struggle with for the rest of his life. He joined MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving to spread the message. Now he spends his days going wherever he is welcomed to share the message "Don't drink and drive." He especially likes to go to schools to tell them the terrible consequences of driving impaired. Hopefully they will heed the message and never drive under the influence of drugs of any type.

The message we get to share is so much more positive and hopeful. We are privileged to get to share it on behalf of Christ. We represent Jesus the great healer and restorer who transforms people's lives by his love and grace. Working the 12 steps is a proven way to find transformation and to continue the journey of living that new life daily.

Step one keeps us aware of the fact of our powerlessness.

Step two opens our eyes to seeing the ways in which God is helping us to a state of restored sanity and clear thinking.

Step three reminds us to keep turning our life and our will over to God.

Step four assists us in seeing our character defects that God will remove from us things like: fear of abandonment, guilt, resentment, shame, fear of authority figures, need to control, seeking approval, obsessive/compulsive behavior, trying to rescue people, lack of humility, taking on excessive responsibility and not honestly expressing our feelings.

Step five asks us to admit our wrongs first to ourselves, then to God and to another human.

Step six prepares us to have God remove our character defects.

Step seven opens us to humbly ask God to remove our character defects.

Step eight assists us in remembering all those we have harmed.

Step nine softens our hearts to make amends and ask for forgiveness from those we have harmed.

Step ten tells us that we are never finished the work of steps 1 through 9.

Step eleven by prayer and meditation keeps us deeply connected spiritually with God.

Step twelve gives us the grateful hearts that we need to be able to share the Good News with other sufferers.

I close with the Prayer For Serenity by Reinhold Niebuhr

God grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;

enjoying one moment at a time;

accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;

taking, as Jesus did,

this sinful world as it is,

not as I would have it;

trusting that You will make all things right

if I surrender to your will;

so that I may be reasonably happy in this life

and supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen

HYMN OF THE DAY *God of the Fertile Fields*

(ACS 1063)

1 God of the fertile fields,

shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:

forth from your bounteous hand

come gifts your love has planned,

that all in ev'ry land

be clothed and fed.

2 We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care
for people ev'rywhere,
that all may live.

3 As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used,
no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused
your love bestows.

4 God of the countryside,
dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew
in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do.
Your will be done.

CREED

(ELW p. 105)

Together with the whole church on earth, we confess our faith

**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

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God who is known in grain and vine, the baptismal waters, and in your word, renew the church's bishops, pastors, deacons, church staff, and all leaders of faith communities, that they live into the fruitful nurturing of disciples.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of creation, we give you thanks for sheltering trees, shifting sands, and stabilizing hills. Remind us, as we also learn from our Indigenous siblings, that your care and intention are behind the shaping of all life.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the widow and the orphan, we give thanks for all who serve and protect your most beloved. Let us accompany elected officials and civic leaders as faithful advocates for peace and safety.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of tender assurance, we give thanks for your continued presence in times of need. Accompany those who are displaced from native lands, victims of injustice, or in need of your sustenance. Comfort those unable to rejoice because of worry or illness. We pray especially for *Melanie, Heather, Sandy, Kerra, Claire, Mila, Robert, Karen, Christa, Harvey, Erin, Judy, Irma, Arlene, Rita, Wilma, Helen, Muriel, Pastor Kristen Steele, Nathan, Dee, Hannah*, and those whom we name in silence or aloud.
(pause)...

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of abundance, we give thanks for the gifts and talents shared in this community of faith. In our diverse experiences of your presence, bless each ministry, gathering, and shared space of prayer and fellowship. Look with favour on the work of your people at First Lutheran in Vancouver, and the Lutheran campus ministries and campus chaplains in the BC Synod.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God who feeds us the bread of eternal life, we give thanks for the lives of the saints and our shared memories with those who have died. With full confidence in the resurrection, we honor their faith with our own.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, the Spirit of all living. Bless Fran, Emily, Judy and Elena as they celebrate their birthdays. Grant them your grace and care as they rejoice in your faithfulness.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

(ELW p. 189)

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING *God Extends an Invitation*

(ELW 486)

God extends an invitation
to the table of creation,
where there's wine and light and bread.
Here we gather in thanksgiving
and we offer all our living.
Here the feast of life is spread;
here the feast of life is spread.

OFFERING PRAYER

(ELW p. 190)

Let us pray.
Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered
together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through
Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

(ELW p. 190)

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.

PREFACE

(ELW p. 190)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(ELW p. 190)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

(ELW p. 190)

Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.
We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;

across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

(ELW p. 191)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

COMMUNION SONG

(ELW p. 191)

**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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

COMMUNION HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God*

(ELW 840)

**1 Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

2 Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

COMMUNION HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation*

(ELW 679)

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(ELW p. 191)

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

(ELW p. 192)

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Let All Things Now Living*

(ELW 881)

1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

DISMISSAL

(ELW p. 192)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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