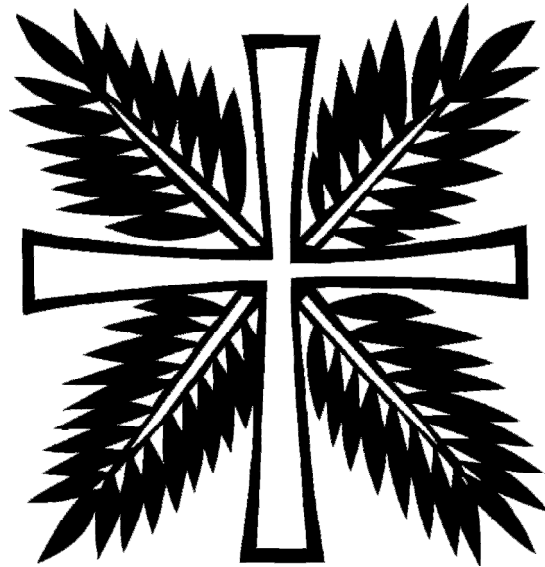




FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



*Joint Service with St. Thomas Anglican Church
Passion/Palm Sunday
April 9, 2017*

**WELCOME TO
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOUNDED 1890**

First Lutheran is a community, a gathering of people of diverse ages, cultures and traditions.

Just as Jesus opened himself to all and, by implication, opened the reign of God to all, so we, the members of First Lutheran seek to do the same.

Therefore, all are welcome here regardless of their race, gender or sexual orientation; regardless of their social, economic, educational, linguistic or relationship status; regardless of their citizenship, religious or cultural background or makeup of their family; and regardless of their physical, mental, emotional or spiritual condition. There is a place for you in our community worship, service and life.

To our Visitors: Welcome! You are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex (lobby) and join us for coffee and conversation downstairs after worship, where our friendly congregants will meet and greet you.

A **special welcome** to worshippers who are unable to be physically present and are joining us online for today's service.

First Lutheran is easily accessible via major city routes - 41st Avenue and Kingsway – and Bus #41 runs west from the Joyce Street Skytrain station. Ample parking is available in a lot just west of the church and on the church side of the two streets--Wales Street and 42nd Avenue. The wheelchair entrance is also the office entrance on 42nd Avenue.

For your convenience, there is an elevator in the southwest corner of the building, fully accessible washrooms on the main floor in the northwest corner and two washrooms down the stairs at the east end of the lower level. A childcare play area is on the lower level.

The present building, erected in 1957, is the third in our history. Founded by Scandinavian fishermen, *First Lutheran* is tied closely to the history of Vancouver. Our logo reflects our ethnic and Christian roots, our West Coast location as well as the varied people and cultures which enrich our life and ministry together.

5745 Wales Street, Vancouver V5R 3N3
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Email: info@firstlutheranvancouver.com
www.firstlutheranvancouver.com

**PALM SUNDAY/PASSION SUNDAY
APRIL 9, 2017**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presiding Ministers</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford Rev. Ron Wickens Rev. Michael Batten
<i>Preacher</i>	Rev. Michael Batten
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Linda Collins
<i>Crucifer</i>	Emmanuel Manu
<i>Lectors</i>	Janet Ray John Green
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organist/Pianist</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Guest Pianist</i>	Kathryn Roller
<i>Cantor</i>	Lorna Hau
<i>Flutist</i>	Anne Johnson
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Violinist</i>	Elina Singh
<i>Guests from St. Thomas</i>	Rita Attrot-Music Director St. Thomas Choir
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Lanny Harris Alex Wilson
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Lanny Harris Janet Ray John Green Joy Stuart
<i>Anointers</i>	Pr. Adolf Manz Pr. Sylvia Schmidt Karen Kerfoot Janet Filippelli
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Janet Schreiber Wayne Wong Betty Wong
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Potluck lunch
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Alex Wilson Lanny Harris

PALM SUNDAY/PASSION SUNDAY

APRIL 9, 2017

A Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

Worshippers may wish to light a votive candle in memory of a loved one or for meditation. This may be done at any time before or during the liturgy except during community prayers, readings or homily. Since the number of candles is limited and to avoid mishaps, parents and caregivers are asked to be attentive when allowing children to light one.

INTRODUCTION

Today's liturgy begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Quickly the tone of the service changes as we meditate upon Jesus' passion and death. Because this story is so central to our faith, we hear Matthew's account of the passion today and John's version on Good Friday. Though Jesus is obedient even unto death on the cross, he is exalted by God. We gather to remember his offering for the life of the world, and to be fed by his life-giving mercy. This holy week will culminate in the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

GATHERING

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

The assembly gathers at St. Thomas Anglican for the opening rite.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.**

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

The leader greets the people and gives a brief introduction, inviting them to participate in the celebration

Dear Friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. On this day our Saviour Jesus Christ entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcomed him with palms and shouts of praise, but the path before him led to self-giving, suffering and death.

Today we greet him as our Sovereign, although we know his crown is thorns and his throne a cross. We follow him this week from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

All remain standing for the Gospel.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 21: 1-11

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.

³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says:

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The celebrant then says the following blessing.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All raise their branches as the celebrant continues.

It is right to praise you, almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ. The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King, with palm branches in their hands, crying, Hosanna in the highest. May we also, carrying these emblems, go forth to meet Christ and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

All follow the cross and torches to First Lutheran. The hymn begins as the procession enters the sanctuary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"All Glory, Laud and Honour"

Refrain:

*All glory, laud and honour to you, redeemer, King.
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

- 1 You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. *Refrain*
- 2 The company of angels is praising you on high;
Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. *Refrain*
- 3 The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went.
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain*
- 4 To you, before your Passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*
- 5 Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,
Great author of all goodness, O good and gracious king. *Refrain*

As the procession ends and all are standing in their places, the presiding minister says

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray: O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a (read by John Green)

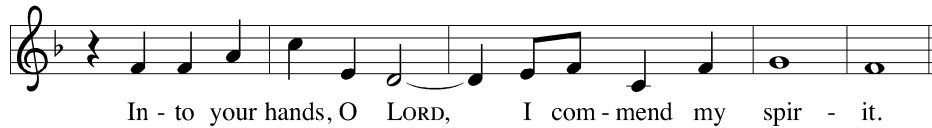
The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

- ⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.
- ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.
- ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.
- ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
- ⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.
- ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Response after the reading: Holy Word; Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:9-16 (*Cantor sings the refrain; then the assembly sings the refrain*)

Refrain



Tone



- ⁹Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I¹ am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat¹ and my belly.
- ¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my¹ years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones¹ are consumed.**
- ¹¹I am the scorn of my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to¹ my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street¹ they avoid me.
- ¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten,¹ out of mind;
I am as useless as a¹ broken pot. R**
- ¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is¹ all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to¹ take my life.
- ¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in¹ you, O LORD. I have said, "You¹ are my God.**
- ¹⁵My times are¹ in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who¹ persecute me.
- ¹⁶**Let your face shine up-¹ on your servant;
save me in your¹ steadfast love." R**

SECOND READING Philippians 2:5–11 (read by Janet Ray)

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

- ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Response after the reading: Word of God; Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Ride On, Ride On, In Majesty”

Mark Sheppard

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 27: 11-54

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. ¹⁵Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted.

¹⁶At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. ²¹The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²²Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

²⁴So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵Then the people as a whole answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

“Hail, King of the Jews!”³⁰ They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him.³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.”⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’⁴⁴ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.⁴⁶ And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.”⁴⁸ At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

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

HYMN OF THE DAY (*All rise*)

343 “*My Song Is Love Unknown*”

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 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: "Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great."

SHARING OF THE PEACE *All may share the peace with one another*

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *The Palms* Jean-Baptiste Faure

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(If able, please rise)*

Let us pray. Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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 Saviour Jesus Christ; whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.

You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into 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:

SANCTUS

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to_e - res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER *(The prayer over the gifts)*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heave 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 gave himself for us, 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 awaits 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 honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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 *(As the bread is broken, the presider says)*

The holy gifts of God for you, the holy people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

It is Christ who invites all to come to his table where he gives his body and blood, along with the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation under the forms of bread and wine. All are welcome to the table of grace! Gluten free bread is available. All are invited to drink from the first (common) cup or if desired, to intinct bread in the second cup. Please note that full communion is received when only one of the elements is consumed.

“LAMB OF GOD” *(see next page)*



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

Refrain
 sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
 in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

MUSIC DURING THE MEAL

#616 "Jesus, Remember Me" (sing 4x)

351 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

481 "Come to the Table"

Ah, Holy Jesus

Johann Cruger

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (If able, please rise)

Let us pray. Compassionate God, **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN # 338 "*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*"

DISMISSAL

Reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, go in peace to love and serve the God.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Chaconne

Louis Couperin

Holy Week Worship Schedule 2017

April 13

Maundy Thursday

6:00 PM Soup dinner at FLC

7:00 PM Worship

April 14

Good Friday

10:15 AM Procession from FLC to St. Thomas Anglican

10:30 AM Joint service at St. Thomas

April 16

Resurrection of Our Lord

8:00 AM Pancake breakfast

10:30 AM Service at FLC



This Week

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm

Wednesday

No Soup Meal

Thursday - Maundy Thursday

Soup Meal and service at FLC, 6 pm

Friday - Good Friday

Opening prayer at FLC, 10:15 am
Procession to St. Thomas for worship

Next Sunday

Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Resurrection of Our Lord, 10:30 am

This morning we welcome our friends from St. Thomas to join us for the Passion Sunday worship here at FLC. There will be a potluck lunch after service on the lower level. Thanks to all volunteers who help set up the meal and clean up afterward.

Our traditional Easter morning breakfast is prepared by the male members of the congregation. If you are able to assist with the breakfast, please talk to Jack Kuyer or Lanny Harris. Assistants are needed to help with breakfast preparations, clean-up and with coffee hour after the service.

Church office will be closed from Friday, April 14 to Monday, April 17 - Monday, April 17. Office will be back to regular hours on Tuesday, April 18.

There will be no choir rehearsal on Thursday, April 13th and April 20. Regular practice will resume on April 27.

Girl Guide Cookie Sale on April 23 \$5/box of original cookies

Confirmation Schedule 2017 May 7, 21 (last class)

Children's Worship 2017 May 7, 21

Community Coffee House & Open Mic Friday, April 28, 7-9 pm

Volunteers needed for set-up and clean-up! If you're able to help, please talk to Elina or Shannon, or sign up in the narthex.

Thanks to those volunteers who will bring a pot of soup on Maundy Thursday, April 13. An additional pot is always appreciated. Volunteers are also needed for the meal set-up and clean-up.

MVA Board & Strategy Team Meeting Tuesday, April 11, 5 to 6:30 pm at PSAC 3rd fl. Boardroom 5238 Joyce St. Vancouver

We will be doing a detailed evaluation of the assembly. Please put this date in your calendar and make every effort to attend.

DIRECTORY

Ministers	God's People
Pastor	Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford 604.720.7255
Minister of Music	Jeanette Price 604.251.2656
Friends InDeed Coordinator	Elina Singh
Office Administrator	Iris Kong
Caretaker	Peter dela Torre
Altar Guild Coordinator	Janet Schreiber
Liturgical Artists	Linda Collins Marion Manz

Church Council

Jen Langerud - Chair & Human Resources
John Morley - Vice Chair & Property
Karen Duddy - Secretary & Community Outreach
Lanny Harris - Property
Ernie Neumann - Treasurer
Sylvia Harris - Envelope Secretary
Wayne Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality & Property
Betty Wong - Fellowship and Hospitality
Debbie Powell - Adult Outreach
Francis Antobre - Outreach Technology
Russell Collins - Community & Technology Outreach
Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adults
Shannon Ingersoll - Worship and Music
Heather Robbie - Education
Janet Ray - Community Outreach, Human resources

Mutual Ministry Committee:

Sandi Strate - Chairperson
Russell Collins
Anne Johnson
Arvid Vimb
Shannon Ingersoll

You can find First Lutheran on:
FB: First Lutheran Church Vancouver
TWITTER: FirstLutheranVan

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: "Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**"*

Lifting our voices and turning toward God, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Redeeming God, your church proclaims your gospel of truth and courage. Gather your children together to share in the promise of Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hosanna, Son of David. Lead your children to care for your good creation and all its inhabitants: lands, waters, plants, and all living creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Soften the hearts of political leaders who ignore or deny suffering, struggle, and injustice. Lift up leaders who seek your will for the sake of their people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Walk with this community as we remember your life-giving passion and death. Send us forth burning with desire to share your word with a hurting world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring companionship to those who feel abandoned, comfort to those in pain, hope to those in despair, and healing to all in need. We pray especially for... and for those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember those who were imprisoned or martyred for their faith and give thanks for their bold confession and witness. We remember especially ... and those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**