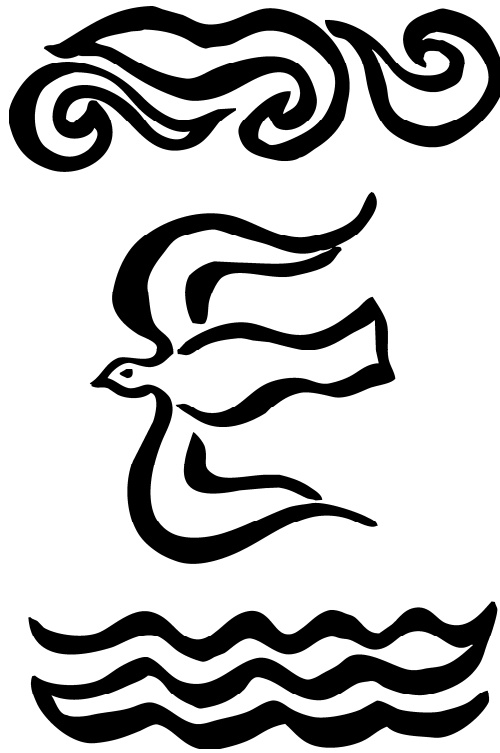




FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 12, 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
Phone: 604-435-6020 Fax: 604-430-6930
Email: info@firstlutheranvancouver.com
www.firstlutheranvancouver.com

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 12, 2017**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Karen Duddy
<i>Lector</i>	Janet Filippelli
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Cantor</i>	Heidi Ackermann
<i>Flutist</i>	Anne Johnson
<i>Violinist</i>	Elina Singh
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Jackie Cleroux Ingrid Bielenberg
<i>Anointers</i>	Sandi Strate Elina Singh Karen Duddy Pr. Adolf Manz
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Janet Filippelli Jackie Cleroux Christine Neumann Ingrid Bielenberg
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Emmanuel Manu Jordan Manu
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Christine Neumann
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Jackie Cleroux Doreen Reid Dennis Reid
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Lanny Harris Alex Wilson

Today's liturgy was adapted from Iona community's worship material by Pat Bennett "WALKING THE WILDERNESS".

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 12, 2017
SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

PRELUDE

*There In God's Garden
Benedictus*

David Cherwien
Alex Rowley

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

In Baptism we are marked with the cross of Christ forever. We do not find God. God finds us – In Jesus, God's faithful love is known to us. In Baptism through the washing of the water and God's words of promise, we are linked to Christ, God's love for us that will never leave us, love that goes through death for us, love that overcomes death for us. *(From "Baptized We Live")*

Now receive the sign of that gospel on your body and in your heart, that you may know Christ and the power of the resurrection.

Receive the +cross on your forehead, a sign of God's endless love and mercy for you. Learn to know and to follow Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Receive the +cross on your ears, that you may hear the gospel of Christ, the word of life.

Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Receive the +cross on your eyes, that you may see the light of Christ, illumination for your way.

Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Receive the +cross on your lips, that you may sing the praise of Christ, the joy of the church.

Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Receive the +cross on your heart, that God may dwell there by faith.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Receive the +cross on your shoulders, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Receive the +cross on your hands, that God's mercy may be known in your work.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Receive the +cross on your knees, that you may kneel before others in service and in prayer.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Receive the +cross on your feet, that you may walk in the way of Christ.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Merciful God, creator and life-giver of all that is, you have called all people from darkness into light, from error into truth, from death into life. We ask you: bless us, your children. Raise us by your Spirit. Revive us by your word. Form us by your hand. Bring us to the water of life and to the bread and cup of blessing, that with all your people we may continue to bear witness to your gracious love and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**
May the God of all creation who has called us to glory support us and make us strong.

GATHERING HYMN # 660 *"Life High the Cross"*

GREETING

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

KYRIE

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SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may share your life to all the world through Jesus Christ, the Beloved One. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

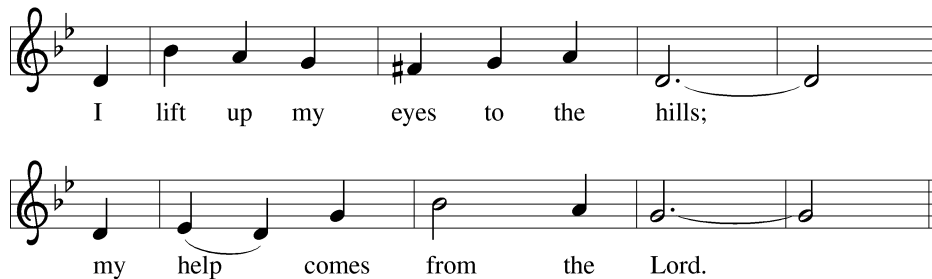
Response: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121 (*Cantor sings refrain first; then all sing refrain*)

Tone



Refrain



I lift up my eyes | to the hills; from where is my | help to come?

²**My help comes | from the LORD, the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R**

⁵the LORD watches | over you; the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike | you by day, nor the | moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?
²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Response: Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

LENTEN VERSE (Sing before and after reading. All rise)



HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

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

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Response after reading: **Praise to you , O Christ.**

HOMILY (*Silence for meditation follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY

397 “*Loving Spirit*”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “God of Love: **Your mercy is great.**”*

PEACE

May the peace of God, the comforting peace of familiar presence, the untamed peace of wilderness places, the challenging peace of watching and wrestling, surround and shape your journey onwards. **And also with you.** *Signs of peace are exchanged.*

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Steal Away

Spiritual

MEAL

INVITATION

In the wilderness the table of God stands open and ready
as a place of sanctuary and safety, of hospitality and healing.
So come, all you who are tired and travel-stained, footsore and famished;
come with your fellow travelers and find companionship and comfort;
for here, Jesus – who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle in desert places
– waits to meet us and welcome us in offering us rest and restoration,
solace and strength, for the journey still to come.

COMMUNION NARRATIVE AND THANKSGIVING

Before going out into the wilderness,
Jesus sat down to eat and drink with his friends.
To show them the challenge of the way ahead,
and offer them gifts for that journey,
as signs of his continuing presence with them throughout time to come.

**And now, remembering that moment,
and recognizing that its promise is also for us in this time and place.
We recognize and affirm with joy
that Christ is present with us now, and throughout time to come;
and we join our voices with those of all creation in the unending song of praise:**

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

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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.

God of new life, send down upon us now,
and on these gifts of bread and wine,
that same Spirit who called Jesus into the desert,
that we too may be strengthened by your Presence
and refreshed and renewed through your love.

The table is set, and God waits for us to come in from the desert for a while and be refreshed.

Thanks be to God.

“LAMB OF GOD”

p.112

*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!** Bread or a gluten free option are available. All are invited to drink from the first (common) cup or if desired, to have an individual glass filled from the second (pouring) cup. **Grape juice is available pre-poured in the trays.** Please note that full communion is received when only one of the elements is consumed. **Anointing is available for those who would like to receive prayer for healing.***

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 759 **“My Faith Looks Up To Thee”**
God’s Time Is Best Johann Sebastian Bach

SENDING

CLOSING PRAYER

God has called us to journey for a season through the wilderness places;
And so, as Jesus did before us, we will set out once more
to wander in an uncomfortable landscape and wrestle with its challenges,
trusting in the work of the Spirit, to inspire us to do the work of the Kingdom.

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favour
and give you ☩ peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 321 **“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”**

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Come, Sweet Peace* Johann Sebastian Bach

Men's Easter Breakfast is coming soon - we need male volunteers to help prepare, serve and cleanup. Contact Jack Kuyer or Lanny Harris.

This Week

Today

Confirmation, 3-4:15 pm

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7:15 PM

Wednesday

MVA Board Strategy Team Meeting, 5:30pm
(see announcement elsewhere)

Soup meal, 5:30 PM

Lenten Study at ST. Thomas, 7:30-9 pm

Thursday

Joint Speech program, 7-8:30 PM
*at St. Andrew's Wesley United Church
(see green insert)*

Choir, 7:30 PM

Saturday

Contemplative Outreach Retreat at FLC

Next Sunday

Faith Study, 9:15 am

Lent 3, 10:30 am

Confirmation, 3-4:15 PM

Children's Worship,

10:45 am on Sundays

April 2 May 7, 21

Confirmation Schedule 2017

3 - 4:15 PM on Sundays

Mar 12, 19 Apr 2, 23 May 7, 21

Joint Lenten Study

Passion: the death of a messiah

Led by Rev. Michael Batten

at St Thomas Anglican Church

7:30-9PM, Wednesday evenings in Lent

***A PLACE FOR INQUIRY,
A PLACE FOR FAITH***

Are you new to the Christian faith?

***Are you continuing
with your faith journey?***

***Looking for a safe space
to ask questions?***

***Interested in learning more
about the Lutheran tradition?***

**Join us for 6 Sundays before Easter
March 5-April 9, 9:30am-10:15am**

Content for each group session
will come out of our experience
with Daniel Erlander's book:

"Baptized, We Live."

Books are provided for the study.

Onsite childcare available.

*Please contact Pr Lori-Anne
if you are interested in joining the study
or sign up in the narthex.*

MVA Board and Strategy Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 5:30 to 7 pm,

at BCGEU Regional Office

2920 Virtual Way

Vancouver, BC V5M 0C4

(opposite Renfrew Skytrain station)

***Please note the change of venue from
our regular meetings!***

This is a special delegates' meeting to
approve the proposals that MVA will be
putting forward at the Provincial
Election Assembly on April 4th. Please
RSVP to infor@metvanalliance.org.

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
Lanny Harris - Property
Ernie Neumann - Treasurer
Karen Duddy - Secretary & Community Outreach
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 - Outreach Technology
Felix Opoku - Outreach Youth & Young Adults
Shannon Ingersoll - Worship and Music
Heather Robbie - Education
Janet Ray - Community Outreach

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: "God of Love: **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.*

God of Abraham and Sarah, God of all earth's families, bless your church to be a blessing and bestow your grace to a hurting world. God of Love: **Your mercy is great.**

O God, you love the entire cosmos. Help us to love all of the creatures and life within it. God of Love: **Your mercy is great.**

O God, our help is in you. Keep the nations, their governments, and their people from all evil *especially*... God of Love: **Your mercy is great.**

O God, lead this assembly in its Lenten journey toward faith, works of love, and prayer. Let those gathered here be fed and nourished by your word. God of Love: **Your mercy is great.**

O God, your promises ease our pain and sorrow. Grant comfort, healing, and joy to all who are in need. We pray especially for... and for those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . God of Love: **Your mercy is great.**

O God, we give thanks for the faithful departed who have joined your saints in light. Let their lives be guides to our own. We remember especially ... and those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . . God of Love: **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**