



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 26, 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

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 26, 2017**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider/Homilist</i>	Pr. Lori-Anne Boutin-Crawford
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	Michael Ray
<i>Lector</i>	Jean Ndhokubwayo
<i>Ministry of Music</i>	
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Guest Pianist</i>	Kathryn Roller
<i>Cantor</i>	Brad Langerud
<i>Flutist</i>	Anne Johnson
<i>Violinist</i>	Elina Singh
<i>Trumpeter</i>	Karl Maier
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Doreen Reid Dennis Reid
<i>Anointers</i>	Pr. Sylvia Schmidt Shannon Ingersoll Janet Filippelli Pr. Adolf Manz
<i>Communion Servers</i>	Eulalie Niyungeko Doreen Reid Epiphany Nyilasoni Dennis Reid
<i>Tray Holders</i>	Soriya Joy Anderson
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	Shannon Ingersoll Alysha Ingersoll Soriya
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Ingrid Anderson Wayne Wong Betty Wong
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Tong Wong John Morley

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 26, 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

*O Sacred Head
Stabat Mater*

Johann Sebastian Bach
Giovanni Pergolesi

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of stillness,

**You draw us into the quietness of the desert so that we can encounter ourselves.
But we confess that all too often we stubbornly cling to false images
rather than face the necessity of change.**

God of Truth,

**You call us into the emptiness of the desert so that we can confront our desires.
But we confess that all too often we continue to choose our own comfort
rather than serving the needs of others.**

God of new ways,

**You call us into the fullness of the desert so that we can engage with your Kingdom.
But we confess that all too often we prefer the smooth roads of safety
over the pathways of justice.**

God of new life,

**Forgive us, O God, wherever we have chosen to be, or do,
or dare less than you have asked of us; and as we walk on in the desert with you,
help us watch and wrestle with these things, and lead us on in new ways.**

GATHERING HYMN

339 "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

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.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Beloved Christ, and come among us. By your grace, bring light wherever there is darkness in our lives, and enliven us with your life-giving Spirit. Lead us on where you call us to go, and give us the faith and courage to see your ways. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

PSALM 23 (*Cantor sings refrain first; then all sing refrain*)

Tone



Refrain



You have a - noint - ed my head with oil.

The LORD¹ is my shepherd; I shall not¹ be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down¹ in green pastures and leads me be-¹side still waters.**

³You restore my¹ soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways¹ for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they¹ comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is¹ running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the¹ LORD forever. R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—

⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead

expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

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



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and
mer - cy; Come, seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

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

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees,

nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”
²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.
²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”
²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.
²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

HOMILY (*Silence for meditation follows*)

HYMN OF THE DAY # 779 “*Amazing Grace*”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: “God of Light: Come to us.”

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

Intermezzo

Brahms

MEAL

INVITATION

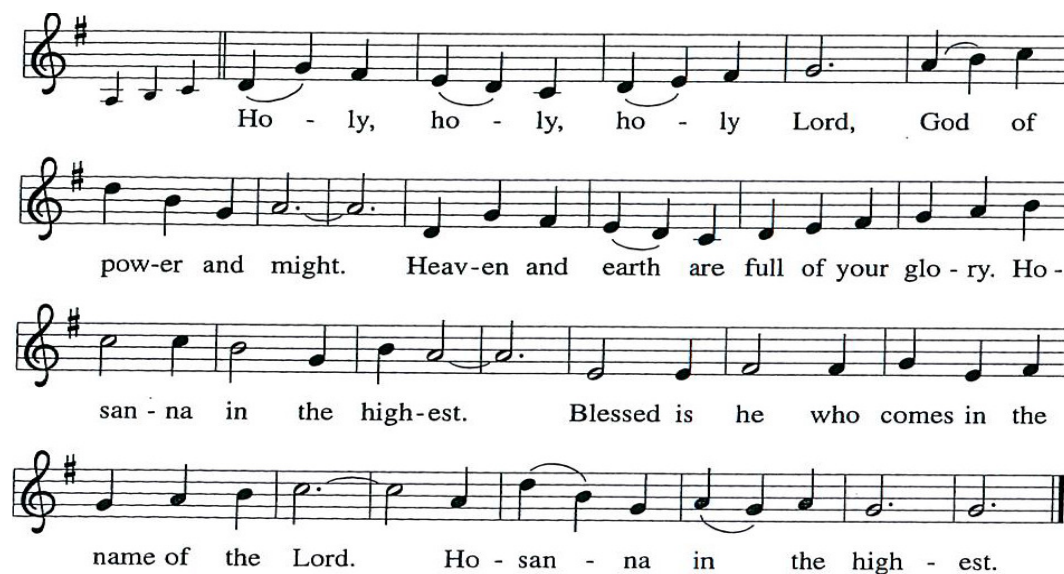
In the wilderness the table of God stands open and ready
as a place of sanctuary and safety, of hospitality and healing.
So come, all you who are tired and travel-stained, footsore and famished;
come with your fellow travelers and find companionship and comfort;
for here, Jesus – who knows what it is 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”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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.

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.**

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”

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*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 # 611 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”
O Lord Whose Mercies George Frederic Handel

SENDING

CLOSING PRAYER *(All rise)*

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 # 452 "*Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*"

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

POSTLUDE *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow* Paul Manz

Holy Week Worship Schedule 2017

- April 9** **Palm/Passion Sunday**
10:00 AM Process from St. Thomas to FLC
10:30 AM Morning liturgy at FLC
(Please bring a snack or dessert for coffee hour)
- 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

Monday-Wednesday

BC Synod Study Conference
(Pr. Lori-Anne out of office)

Wednesday

Soup meal, 5:30 PM
Exploring Worship, 7 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
Choir, 7:30 PM

Saturday

FLC Altar Cleaning Day, 10 am - noon
Missional Renewal Guiding Team, 10:30 am
at Our Saviour Lutheran, Richmond

Next Sunday

Faith Study, 9:15 am
Lent 5, 10:30 am
Children's Worship, 10:45 am
Council executive meeting, after worship
Transforming Community Connections, 12pm
Confirmation, 3-4:15 PM

Confirmation Schedule 2017

3 - 4:15 PM on Sundays
April 2 May 7, 21 (last class)

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

**Calling Volunteers for Sat, April 1
10 am to noon at FLC**

Volunteers are needed for pre-Easter preparation, including polishing brass and silver, polishing the wood furnishings, altar cupboard sorting, cleaning and stashing, and votive candle stands clean-up. If you are interested in helping out or have questions, please contact church office or Marion Manz.

Children's Worship 2017

10:45 am on Sundays
April 2 May 7, 21

Girl Guide Cookie Sale

April 2 & April 23
\$5/box of original cookies

**MVA Provincial Election
Accountability Assembly**

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 from 6-8 PM
Registration at 5:15 PM
Italian Cultural Center
(3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver)

We will be asking the provincial party leaders to support our efforts on Economic Justice, Affordable Housing, Accessible Transit and a Strong Foundation for Healthcare.

The province we want:

- 1. A fair, equal and poverty-free place, with economic justice for all**
- 2. A better housed province**
- 3. Accessible transit for all**
- 4. A strong foundation for health care**

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: "God of Light: **Come to us.**"*

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

You shed light on your creation. Let the changing of the seasons bring forth growth and new life from what was dormant and fallow. God of Light: **Come to us.**

Shine your light on the people of every nation. Reveal your reconciling love in places where fear and conflict thrive *especially*... God of Light: **Come to us.**

Restore, renew, and enliven the ministry and work of this congregation. Help us to see your purpose clearly. God of Light: **Come to us.**

God of wholeness, bring clarity to those in confusing times, bring healing to those in painful times, and bring peace to those in trying times. We pray especially for... and for those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . . .
God of Light: **Come to us.**

We remember and give thanks for those who have joined you in eternal light. Let their lives of faith shine in our hearts and guide our paths. We remember especially . . . and those whom we name aloud or silently in our heart. . .
God of Light: **Come to us.**

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