

Sunday Worship Service – September 27, 2026
18th Sunday after Pentecost
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day
***With One Voice – Holy Communion – Bread of Life, Setting 5* (p.28-41)**
The liturgy and hymns are from WOV

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings

In today's service we acknowledge National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day which will be celebrated on September 30. The purpose of the day is to promote reconciliation and help ensure that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten. As followers of Jesus, called to the ministry of reconciliation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada encourages us to observe this day through reflection, learning, or participating in a community event.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle*

O Great Spirit, Creator of all light and life, as we gather in this sacred space to celebrate National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we now light the Christ candle as a symbol of your divine presence among us.
We remember the words of Christ, the Light of the World, who calls us to be beacons of hope, healing, and reconciliation.
We pray that the light of this candle will illuminate our hearts, and inspire us to walk together in the footsteps of Christ.
May we be bearers of this light in a world yearning for peace, justice, and reconciliation.
In the name of the Creator, the Great Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Call to Worship¹

Reconciling God, we gather in your presence, seeking healing and hope.
Because reconciliation matters, we walk together in truth and love.
We come to worship the God who makes all things new.
Because reconciliation matters, we open our hearts to healing.

¹ <https://salvationist.ca/indigenousministries/resources/truth-and-reconciliation-sunday-orange-shirt-day/>

We gather as a people of many stories and one faith.

Because reconciliation matters, we seek unity in God's grace.

In Christ, barriers are broken and new paths are made.

Because reconciliation matters, we walk forward together.

Prayer of Lament²

Reconciling Christ, you ask us to treat every child as we would treat you,
to love every person as you have loved us.

We are grateful that your power is rooted in love, not force;
your strength is displayed through community, not might.

You have taught us to work toward a better world where all of creation
thrives, and where every child matters.

We lament the stolen childhood of all the children forcibly raised in
residential schools. We mourn the children who never made it home
and the stories never shared.

We ask that you provide comfort to all who are seeking healing,
and courage to all who are working toward reconciliation.

Words of Forgiveness*

Beloved of God, receive these words of assurance:

The Great Spirit, our Creator, is a God of compassion and unconditional
love. We come before the Creator, seeking forgiveness and transformation.
In this sacred space, let us find strength and courage to journey together on
the path of healing, reconciliation, and unity. May we become agents of
hope, love, and justice, embodying the spirit of Christ. In the name of the
+ Creator, the Great Spirit, we are forgiven, renewed, and empowered.
Amen.

WOV #719 Gathering Hymn “God Is Here” (v.1-3)

- 1. God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**
- 2. Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit; here the cross has central place.**

² **Prayer Service to Remember the Children** © 2022 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada.
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Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

3. Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

p.28 **Greeting**

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.**

p.28 **Kyrie** (leader part sung by Joshua)

Kyrie eleison: Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison: Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison: Lord, have mercy.

p.29 **Hymn of Praise "Glory to God"**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Prayer of the Day³

Vibrant God, **your creation explodes with the colours of the rainbow. Your people reveal the beauty of diversity. We lament today for the childhoods lost through the residential school system. We mourn for the spirits crushed and the futures compromised. Give us the courage to share the stories of resistance that make us stronger. In the name of the one who was a child among us. Amen.**

Psalm 25:1-9

O Grandfather, from deep in my inner being, I send my voice to you.
It is in you that my heart finds trust. Set me free from the shame of defeat. Do not let my enemies humiliate me.
 No one who keeps their eyes on you will be put to shame. No, those who betray others for no good reason will be brought down low.
Grandfather, show me your ways and teach me to walk in your footsteps.
 Guide me on your road to truth and instruct my heart. You are my Creator and the one who sets me free. From sunrise to sunset, I think deeply about your ways and put my hope in you.
Grandfather, bring to mind the kindness and great love you have always shown to your people for as long as we have known to you.
 Do not let the wanderings of my younger days and foolish ways come into your thoughts. You are good, Grandfather. Remember your faithful and true love for me.
Grandfather always does what is honourable and true. Grandfather guides all who have strayed from his path back to his good road.
 Grandfather shows the humble of heart how to make good decisions and guides them to his right ways. (FNV)

New Testament Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

In this letter written to the church in Philippi, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

A reading from Philippians the 2nd chapter:

³ Courtesy of the Presbyterian Church of Canada

As you walk the road with the Chosen One, have you gained from him courage for the journey? Have you found comfort in his love? Do you share together in his Spirit? Has his tenderness and mercy captured your heart? If so, then have the same kind thoughts. Love with one heart. Join together in one Spirit. And walk side by side on one path. This will make my heart leap for joy. But when you do these things, make sure you do them for the right reasons. Do not let selfish ways take you down a path of bragging or trying to look better than others. Instead, let humility be your guide as you honour others above yourself. Each of you should look to the needs of others, not just to your own.

Think about yourselves in the same way Creator Sets Free (Jesus) the Chosen One thought about himself.

Even though Creator Sets Free (Jesus) has always been the same as the Great Spirit and shared everything equally with him, he did not even think of holding on to this in a selfish way.

Instead he emptied himself, became nothing, and gave up all he had.

Athen, having been born as a human being, he took on himself the lowly form of a servant.

As a True Human Being, he lowered himself even more by following the guidance of the Great Spirit, even when death was waiting for him at the end of the trail, death on a tree-pole – the cross!

Because Creator Sets Free (Jesus) did this, the Great Spirit gave him an honoured place above all others and bestowed on him a name greater than all other names, so that all who live in the spirit-world above, on the earth below, and underneath the earth will bow their knee to Creator Sets Free (Jesus) in honour of his name. Then everyone, in their native language, will shout out loud that Creator Sets Free (Jesus) the Chosen One is Grand Chief over all the earth. This will bring honour and praise to our Father the Great Spirit.

Much loved family, you have always followed my guidance, not only when I was with you but much more now that I am away. So then, with great respect, you must walk the path Creator has given you for being set free and made whole. For the Great Spirit is creating in you the desire and strength to do what pleases him. (FNV)

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

p.31 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

In the gospel reading, Jesus begins teaching in the temple after driving out the moneychangers. Jesus' authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Creator Sets Free (Jesus) arrived at the lodge, the head holy men were waiting for him. They and the ruling elders of the people came to him. "By what right do you do these things?" they challenged. "Who gave you this right?"

"First you must answer one question from me," he challenged back, "and then I will tell you what gives me the right. The purification ceremony performed by Gift of Goodwill (John), was it from the spirit-world above, or did it come from human beings?"

They put their heads together and talked it over. If we say it is from the spirit world above, he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say it is from human beings, we fear what this crowd would do, for they are sure Gift of Goodwill (John) was a prophet."

So they answered him, "we do not know."

"So then," Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to them, "neither will I tell you what gives me the right to do these things."

"How do you see it?" Creator Sets Free (Jesus) asked them. "A man with two sons came to one of his sons and said, 'Son will you work in my vineyard today?' At first the son told him 'No,' but later changed his mind and went to work.

Then the man went to his other son and asked him the same. He told his father, 'Yes, I will' but never went."

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) looked right at the spiritual leaders and asked, "Which of the two sons did what his father wanted?"

They said to him, "The first one."

“I speak truth from my heart,” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to them, “tribal tax collectors and those who sell sexual favours will find their way onto Creator’s good road ahead for you! Gift of Goodwill (John) came to show the good way, but you refused to hear him. You saw how the tribal tax collectors and those who sell sexual favours put their trust in him, but not even this changed your mind to believe in him. (FNV)

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

Sermon

WOV #763 Hymn of the Day “*Let Justice Flow Like Streams*”

1. **Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure, enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.**
2. **Let righteousness roll on as others’ cares we heed, an everflowing stream of faith translated into deed.**
3. **So may God’s plumb line, straight, define our measure true, and justice, right and peace pervade this world our whole life through.**

Affirmation of Faith

That we worship one God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
in whose image we are made, to whose service we are summoned,
by whose energy we are renewed:

This we believe.

That it is central to the mission of Christ to respect the earth as God’s possession, to rejoice in the diversity of human culture,
to preserve human life in all its beauty and frailty, to witness to the love of God for all people and all places and to invite others to share that converting experience:

This we believe.

That through the power of the Holy Spirit the persecuted shall be lifted up and the wicked shall stumble, the hesitant prayers and hidden actions of God’s people shall change the course of human history, the ancient words of scripture shall startle us with fresh insight:

This we believe.

That God has called the church into being to be the servant of the kingdom, to be a sign of God's new order, to offer a foretaste on earth of the magnificence of heaven:

This we believe.

That Christ, fully aware of our differences, prays that we may be one so that the world might believe:

This we believe, and to this we are committed for the love of God, in the way of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayers of Intercession*

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

God of love, You are the creator of this land and all good things. We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history and the suffering of Indigenous people, especially children.

Here we O God, **your mercy is great.**

God of love, we thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures. Our hope is in you because your son, Jesus Christ, came to reconcile the world to you.

Here we O God, **your mercy is great.**

God of love, teach us to respect all cultures. Help us to bring about spiritual and social change. Open our hearts so that we may hear the message you teach of a world in which the wrongs of the past are recognized.

Here we O God, **your mercy is great.**

God of love, help us to reach out to a world in which reconciled people walk and talk together sharing stories. Help us to reach out to a world in which all burn with a desire to have your peace and justice reign.

Here we O God, **your mercy is great.**

God of love, with your Holy Spirit, let our hearts fill with love and acceptance in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

p.35 **Offertory**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
 Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
 that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
 unite them with the prayers we offer now.
 Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
 and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

p.35 **Offering Prayer**

Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given
 us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
 Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,
 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

p.36 **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 a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
 to give thanks to you.
 As you gave our ancestors in faith food and water in the desert,
 even when they turned away from you,
 you have promised to free us from all divisions and to give us eternal life.
 And so with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.36 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer

p.39 **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.**

Communion Distribution

p.39 ***Lamb of God***

**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.**

WOV #706 Communion Hymn “*Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*”

***Refrain* Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the goodness of God.
 Bread of life, cup of love, we rejoice in your presence.**

- 1. I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
 in my God I glory forever: listen and rejoice! *Refrain***
- 2. Look upon the Lord, be radiant, never turn away.
 God will save in ev'ry affliction, hear us when we pray. *Refrain***
- 3. Angels fold their wings around us, guard through good and ill.
 Those who seek the Lord will lack nothing; taste, and have your fill.
*Refrain***
- 4. Saints of God, bow down and worship, bless the holy name.
 Rise to tell God's greatness forever, wondrous deeds proclaim! *Refrain***

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

God of all creation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

Through this meal, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing⁴

Beloved people of God, go now with hearts open to truth,
for Christ is the way, the truth and the life.
Go with courage to walk the path of reconciliation,
for God in Christ has reconciled us and calls us to reconcile with one another.
And as you go, may the Spirit guide your steps toward healing and hope,
reminding us always that reconciliation matters.
In the name of + God Creator, Jesus our Healer,
and the Holy Spirit our comforter. Amen.

WOV #752 Sending Hymn *"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky/Here I Am, Lord"*

1. **"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"**
Refrain: **Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**
2. **"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" (Refrain)**
3. **"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.**

⁴ <https://salvationist.ca/indigenousministries/resources/truth-and-reconciliation-sunday-orange-shirt-day/>

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" (*Refrain*)

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God in word and deed. **Thanks be to God!**

Sources:

Those parts of this worship service marked with an asterisk (*) are from:

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