

Sunday Worship Service – September 28, 2025
16th Sunday after Pentecost
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day

Words of Welcome

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.

(light Christ Candle)

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.

Prayer of Lament

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.

#712 Gathering Hymn “*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*”

1. **Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy’s perfect deed;
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to your purpose ev’ry gift which you impart.**
2. **Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.**
3. **As we worship, grant us vision, till your love’s revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
 dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.**
4. **Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
 counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.**

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.**

Four Direction Prayer¹

Let us turn our hearts to the West
from there the thunders bring us cleansing rain,

Creator God, heal us and our relatives.

Let us turn our hearts to the North,
winter comes to us from there and calls us to rest,

Creator God, restore our strength.

Let us turn our hearts to the East,
the morning Sun begins each day there.

Creator God, awaken us and help us to walk with a renewed life.

Let us turn our hearts to the South,
where the warm winds come from to give us comfort and joy.

Creator God, soothe our aching souls.

Let us turn our hearts to the sky,
from there our Creator sees all around us.

Creator God, help us to trust you to lead us.

Let us turn our hearts to the earth,
from there quiet wisdom comes to teach us.

Creator God, hear us as we pray.

Prayer of the Day²

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.

¹ Adapted from Diocese of Western North Carolina - Anglican Indigenous Ministries

² Courtesy of the Presbyterian Church of Canada

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 *(from the First Nations Version an Indigenous Bible Translation)*

All who make their home in the secret place of the One Above Us All will remain under the shadow of the Great Provider.

I will tell Grandfather, “You are the one who watches over me, my strong lodge of protection – my Creator.

I have put all hope and trust in you.”

He will rescue you from the snares the trappers left behind and from deadly sickness.

He will spread his feathers over you and keep you hidden under his wings. Like a breastplate and bone choker, his faithfulness is a medicine shield that surrounds you and keeps you from harm.

You will not fear the dark terrors stalking the night or the arrow that flies in the light of the day.

You will not need to tremble before the disease that walks at night or the deadly sickness that attacks when the sun is high.

Because you have a love for me that holds on tight,” says the Great Spirit, “I will set you free and make you whole.

I will lift you high to my place of safety because you know who I truly am.

When my people call to me by name, I will answer and stand by them in times of trouble. I will deliver them and bring them honour.

I will give them a good long life and show them that I am the One Who Sets Them Free.”

Reading: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

The reading from the pastoral epistle from 1st Timothy, Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

Actually, godliness is a great source of profit when it is combined with being happy with what you already have. We didn't bring anything into the world and so we can't take anything out of it: we'll be happy with food and clothing. But people who are trying to get rich fall into temptation. They are trapped by many stupid and harmful passions that plunge people into ruin and destruction. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some

have wandered away from the faith and have impaled themselves with a lot of pain because they made money their goal.

But as for you, person of God, run away from all these things. Instead, pursue righteousness, holy living, faithfulness, love, endurance, and gentleness. Compete in the good fight of faith. Grab hold of eternal life – you were called to it, and you made a good confession of it in the presence of many witnesses.

I command you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and Christ Jesus, who made the good confession when testifying before Pontius Pilate. Obey this order without fault or failure until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The timing of this appearance is revealed by God alone. God alone has immortality and lives in light that no one can come near. No human being has ever seen or is able to see God. Honor and eternal power belong to God. Amen.

Tell people who are rich at this time not to become egotistical and not to place their hope on their finances, which are uncertain. Instead, they need to hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others. When they do these things, they will save a treasure for themselves that is a good foundation for the future. That way they can take hold of what is truly life.

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

#520 Gospel Acclamation “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word” (v.1&3)

- 1. Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given draw us wholly up to heaven.**
- 3. Radiance of God’s glory bright, Light of Light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light; help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

In the gospel reading from Luke, Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“There was a certain rich man who clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and who feasted luxuriously every day. At his gate lay a certain poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Lazarus longed to eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. Instead, dogs would come and lick his sores.

“The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham’s side.

The rich man also died and was buried. While being tormented in the place of the dead, he looked up and saw Abraham at a distance with Lazarus at his side. He shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I’m suffering in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received good things, whereas Lazarus received terrible things.

Now Lazarus is being comforted and you are in great pain.

Moreover, a great crevasse has been fixed between us and you.

Those who wish to cross over from here to you cannot.

Neither can anyone cross from there to us.’

“The rich man said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, send Lazarus to my father’s house. I have five brothers. He needs to warn them so that they don’t come to this place of agony.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets. They must listen to them.’ The rich man said, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will change their hearts and lives.’ Abraham said, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, then neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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

Sermon

#717 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**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in
need. Prayer petitions will end with "God of grace" and the congregation is
invited to respond by saying: **"receive our prayer."**

We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore
the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and
honoring the gift of your creation. You are the Creator of this land and all
good things. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and
compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote
peace and prosperity for all. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for people in any need, those living with mental health challenges,
those living with dementia, those caring for those who live with dementia,

those who are in hospital, and those who are grieving. Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of love, with your Holy Spirit, let our hearts fill with love and acceptance in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, our rock, creating, redeeming and sanctifying. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering and Offering Prayer**

Lord of the harvest, **we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Communion Liturgy

We do not come to this table trusting in our own goodness.

We come knowing we need forgiveness and trusting God to grant it.

We come because we are hungry for meaning and need to be fed.

God, forgive and feed us.

We come because Jesus Christ invited us.

We come as Christ's guests to the heavenly banquet.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Communion *(for online worshippers)*

Communion Distribution

#479 Communion Hymn “We Come to the Hungry Feast”

1. We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.
2. We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev’ry kind, the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.
3. We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay with us still.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion**

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us
and called us to be your servants. Send us to do good
and to share our gifts with all in need. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

May we leave this place with God’s assurance,
May we be strengthened with Christ’s comfort,
May we be guided by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit
to fulfill God’s call in our lives to continue to engage in the ministry of
love, justice and reconciliation.

In the name of + God our Creator, Jesus our healer, and the Holy Spirit our
Comforter. Amen.

#723 Sending Hymn “Canticle of the Turning” (v.1-3)

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

2. **Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.**

**Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might,
put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

Refrain

3. **From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**

Refrain

Sending

Go in peace.

Rejoice and be glad for Christ calls us to a ministry of reconciliation.

Thanks be to God!

Sources:

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB).

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