



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
“Every Child Matters” -- Orange Shirt Sunday

Presiding: Pastor Derek Solberg

Prelude: Quiet Instrumental Music

Musician: Cheryl S.

Welcome: John M.

Welcome everyone and explain: Today we gather for Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We come not to re-live history, but to remember truthfully, to lament honestly, to seek God's forgiveness, and to renew our commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Faith-based Land Acknowledgement

Peter C.: At Hope Lutheran Church, united in Christ and called into community together, we give thanks to the Snuneymuxw People that we gather, worship, and serve on their traditional territory. We honour the Snuneymuxw Nation for their enduring relationship with this land and for their example in caring for creation through wisdom, stewardship, and deep responsibility to community.

As followers of Jesus, and in the spirit of confession and renewal, we recognize that the work of reconciliation is ongoing. We commit ourselves to listening, learning, and building meaningful relationships grounded in humility, respect, and trust between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Guided by God's call to justice, peace, and healing, may we confront past, present and future injustices, support the self-determination of the Snuneymuxw Nation, and work together toward a future shaped by hope, compassion, and faithful care for all creation.

Confession and Forgiveness

Peter C.: In the presence of God and one another, we come with open hearts. We remember the children who were taken from their families, the Survivors who carry the

wounds of Residential Schools, and the families and communities whose lives continue to be affected by that history.

We confess that the Church was part of this history. We confess the ways in which Christians failed to honour the dignity, culture, languages, families, and spiritual traditions of Indigenous Peoples. We confess the times when we have been silent, when we have not listened, and when we have turned away from the truth.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not always loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We have benefited from systems and traditions that caused harm.

We have sometimes been silent when we should have spoken,

and we have sometimes spoken without first listening.

Forgive us, O God. Open our hearts to truth.

Give us courage to learn, humility to listen,

and strength to walk a new path of relationship and reconciliation.

Peter C.: God of mercy, we remember that repentance is more than words. It calls us to turn toward one another, to seek justice, to repair relationships, and to live differently.

God's grace is greater than our failures. In Jesus Christ, God does not abandon us to our past, but calls us into new life and gives us the ministry of reconciliation.

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Help us to walk humbly, to act with compassion, and to seek justice and peace.

Peter C.: In Christ, we are forgiven and set free to live as people of reconciliation. May God's Spirit give us courage to face the truth, humility to listen, and hope to continue walking together toward healing and justice.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW # 641 "All Are Welcome"

Prayer of the Day

God of truth, You know every story. You remember every child. You hear every cry. Open our hearts to truth, soften us toward repentance, strengthen us for reconciliation, and guide us by your Holy Spirit into lives of justice, compassion, and hope; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Children's Message: Louisa Shaw

Indigenous Guest of Audrey S.: a Residential School Survivor

Brief Introduction: Audrey

Orange shirts.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Audrey S.:

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited, but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 21: 23-32

The Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Derek

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 726 “Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Intercessions: Tim S.

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

A brief silence.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. *Within the BC Synod, we pray for First Lutheran in Vancouver; and for Lutheran campus ministries and campus chaplains.* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. *Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need, especially Eva A; Bonnie C; Carol D; Sue D; Trisha G; Donna & Larry K; Elizabeth P; Tamara P; Chris V; Colin V; Angela; Delaine; Teighan; Ruth; Kaylan & family; the Hussein family; Kevin M. & family; the family of Rev. Fred G; the family of Hartmut H; the family of Katja R.* Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*And in the spirit of Reconciliation, we offer these our prayers, confident that God hears us. Holy God, 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 peoples, especially children. Lord, **hear our prayer.***

Holy God, 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.

*Lord, **hear our prayer.***

*Holy God, God of love, Teach us to respect all cultures. Help us to bring about spiritual and social change. ALL: Lord, **hear our prayer.***

*Holy God, God of love, Open up our hearts so that we may hear the message you teach of a world in which the wrongs of the past are recognised. Lord, **hear our prayer.***

*Holy God, God of love, Help us to reach out to a world in which a reconciled people walk and talk together sharing stories. Help us to reach out to a world in which all burn with the desire to have your peace and justice reign. Lord, **hear our prayer.***

Holy God, 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.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

The Peace *[unmute]*

The peace of Christ is with you always!

And also with you!

(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile, or some other gesture of peace)

Offering & Offertory

Great Thanksgiving *(hymnal setting 4, p.152, Sung)*

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...**

(pastor continues)

Holy, holy, holy *(hymnal, setting 4, page 153)*

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.

Words of Institution

Take This Bread and Eat *(in back of hymnal)*

Take this bread and eat.

Take this wine and drink. Do this and remember me.

Take this bread and eat.

Take this wine and drink.

Do this and remember, remember me.

Lord's Prayer *(spoken, hymnal, Setting 4, page 154)*

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 *(those on Zoom will be communed first, and then those in the sanctuary)*

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see that the Lord is good.

Lamb of God *(hymnal, Setting 4, page 154)*

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.

Invitation:

Christ welcomes all who seek his mercy and peace.

Communion Hymns:

ELW 461 “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

ELW 466 “In the Singing”

Blessing

May the blessing of God—Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer—
be with you today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW # 886 “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

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Go in peace. Listen deeply. Walk humbly. Love generously.

Continue Christ's ministry of reconciliation.

Thanks be to God.

Worship Assistants Today -- Presiding: *Pastor Derek Solberg*

Hymnologist: *John C.*

Piano: *Cheryl S.*

Reader: *Audrey S.*

Intercessions: *Tim S.*

Usher: *Rosalind & Neil S.* Zoom Greeters: *Dorothy P.*

Zoom Techs: *Marlis, Jamie*

Communion Ass'ts: *Frieda K, Terry O.*

Readings for Sunday, October 4, 2026 — Pentecost 19

Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Note: Please stay after Church for an informal, short gathering with Louisa in the sanctuary following Service. Bannock or other treats will be supplied to those attending!