***Hope Lutheran Church***

 ***September 14, 2025 – Holy Cross Day***

*Setting 2 (pages 116-137)*

“We are so very grateful that we can meet here on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw People. May we always look for ways to confront past and current injustice, prevent future injustices, and support Snuneymuxw governance and jurisdiction, as well as promote the building of relationships between First Peoples and Settler Peoples.”

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Presiding: Pastor Bill Fehr**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in the transitions of life. **Amen.**

Holy One, **we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In +Jesus’ name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

*(verse 1 and Refrain after Verses 2-5)*

***All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,***

***All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all. Amen.***

**2. Each little flower that opens, Each little birth that sings;**

**He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings.**

**3. The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun,**

**The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one.**

**4. The rocky mountain splendour, The haunting curlew’s call,**

**The great lakes and the prairies, The forests in the fall;**

**5. He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell**

**How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well.**

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

**Glory to God in the Highest**  *(hymnal page 121-122 sung)*

***Refrain***

***Glory to God in the highest, 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.** *(Refrain)*

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayers.** *(Refrain)*

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

 **Children’s Corner**

**First Reading – Numbers 21:4b-9**

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:18-24**

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,
‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
   and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’
Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God**.**

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: *(Hymnal Setting 2, page 124)*

 “Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.”

**Gospel – John 3:13-17**

*The Gospel according to John.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “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. “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.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: Pastor Bill Fehr**

**Hymn of the Day: # 666 “What Wondrous Love Is This”**

**Prayers of Intercession**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. May we, *and those who worship at St. Paul’s Lutheran in Prince Rupert and Our Saviour Lutheran in Richmond*, look to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for a fair, just, and lasting peace in Gaza and throughout the world. May they seek the way of the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving *especially*… *Trisha G; Pat & Judy H; Dennis K; Rev. Jukka Joensuu; Steven M; Marilyn N; Glynis; Nathan; Wyatt; the family of Gary G; the family of Garry H; the family of Ahmad Hussain.* Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*Lord, we ask for your wisdom and guidance as we welcome our new pastor, Derek Solberg.  Be with Pastor Derek and his family as they plan, pack, say good bye to friends and drive across the country. Help us to be open-hearted and supportive with our new pastor. May we embrace changes and consider new directions You have planned for us.*

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world’s lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. May we follow you to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died. Giving thanks for them, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**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)*

**The Offering**

**Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord is 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…*)

"It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you almighty and merciful God,

through our Saviour Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection

opened to us the way of everlasting life…

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter

and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy*** *(hymnal page 130)*

***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.***

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,

who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,

who preached good news to the poor,

and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,

we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,

and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,

the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** *(hymnal page 134; spoken)*

**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**

*‘First we will communion those on zoom, then today’s assistants, followed by the congregation.’*

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

**Lamb of God** *(Hymnal Setting 2, page 135)*

**Communion Hymns:**

**Hymn # 485 “I Am the Bread of Life”**

**Hymn # 335 “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”**

**Blessing:**

The God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Sending Song # 547 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”**

*Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

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Worship Assistants Today

Presiding: Pastor Bill Fehr Preaching: Pastor Bill Fehr

Hymnologist: (*musician selecting hymns*): *Gail Smith*

Reader: *Frieda K.* Intercessions: *Gerry Jacob*

Communion Assistants: *Marilyn, Flo, Carolyn, Laurie*

Zoom Techs: *Glenn, Steven M.* Zoom Host: *Dorothy Pagan*

Ushers: *Frieda K.* Piano: *Gail Smith*

*Readings for next Sunday, September 21st, Pentecost 15*

*Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13*