

# *Hope Lutheran Church Worship Service*

## *CLWR Sunday, September 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.*



**TO HOPE AND ACT  
WITH CREATION**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2024



**Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief**

*We express our appreciation for being able to meet on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. May we always look for ways to confront past injustices and support Snuneymuxw governance and jurisdiction.*

### **Welcome & Announcements**

#### **Thanksgiving at the Font**

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the creator of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into those who are baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: #579 Lord, You Give the Great Commission (verses 1, 2, 5)**

**Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."**

**Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:**

***Refrain***

***With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.***

**Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach."**

**That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each, give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community: *Refrain***

**Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."**

**Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity: *Refrain***

*Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934*

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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.**

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**This is the Feast** (*Hymnal, Setting 4, pages 149-50*)

*Refrain:*

***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.***

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

*Refrain:*

***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.***

**Sing with all the people of God  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor and glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

*Final Refrain:*

***This is the feast of victory for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.***

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and gracious Lord, we thank you for this country Canada and all of its bountiful riches. Continue to show us how to share what we have so that others might also enjoy these gifts. Uphold the good work of *Canadian Lutheran World Relief* by your Spirit of faith, hope and love. Infuse in us the belief and full trust that you, God, are a faithful God, meeting our needs at the right times in the right places. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who always reached out to the poor. **Amen.**

**Children's Corner**

**First Reading – Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29**

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.'

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses

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said to the Lord, ‘Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favour in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, “Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child”, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, “Give us meat to eat!” I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favour in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.’

So the Lord said to Moses, ‘Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, ‘Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.’ And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, ‘My lord Moses, stop them!’ But Moses said to him, ‘Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!’

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading – James 5:13-20**

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a

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sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation*** (*Hymnal Setting Four , page 151*)

***Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?***

***You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia***

**Gospel – Mark 9:38-50**

*The Gospel according to Mark.*

***Glory to you, O Lord.***

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

***Praise to you, O Christ.***

**Sermon**

Mark 9:38-50



*Canadian Lutheran World Relief* has always impressed me by working with so many others in so many different ways. We have supported *CLWR* for many years. Here is a story<sup>1</sup> from a recent newsletter about one of those ways:

<sup>1</sup> CLWR Partnership, Winter, 2024

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*The conflict in Ukraine has been traumatic for millions of Ukrainian civilians forced to flee their homes for safer parts of the country or as refugees into surrounding countries. The trauma is much worse for children whose worlds have been turned upside down, often in the course of a few hours. A therapy dog trainer brings her therapy dog Doxa to work with children at a shelter for internally displaced people. The children play with Doxa, who is helping to bring them comfort, build self confidence, and teach them to trust again. Many of the children have lost all sense of control over their surroundings. Being able to decide what Doxa will do and directing her with commands provides them with a sense of control in a safe space. The trainer recalled one family with children. “When they arrived, the children were afraid of any noise that sounded like the war. Thunder caused them anxiety. A psychologist tried to help but couldn’t get very far. They wouldn’t go anywhere without their mother. But when they started to interact with Doxa, they began to open up more and more. They now come without their mom. They don’t cry, but play and have fun.” Your support is helping the children in Ukraine recover from and reclaim their childhood.*

CLWR is involved with famine relief, refugee settlement, disaster response, and wherever there is crisis. The answer is to working with others in whatever ways help. Our readings call us to the same goal.

### **We tried to stop him**

The Gospel of Mark tells us that disciples tried to stop someone they didn’t know from helping. I wonder what they did? Did they yell at him? Did they push him away with their hands, did they try to kick at him? Did they keep their eyes peeled for others they might have to run off if they showed up in the neighbourhood? While they were proud of being dismissive with a “them and us” approach, until Jesus told them to stop it.

He was not impressed. There was more than enough work for everyone. They needed to encourage others, not resist... or nothing would be accomplished. It was even worse if someone’s efforts were defeated because of competition. He said that any act of goodness carried blessing for the giver. If they used their energy to keep others from helping — like a millstone on their neck, they would sink themselves.

Rough handling of people who want to help, kicking at them because they are different, or watching & waiting to chase them away stirs up bad feelings. It also pulls the plug on assistance, and creates a kind of “hell” for everyone.

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### **Cut it off**

It's better to get rid of the pushing hand, kicking foot, and suspicious eye so the work of healing can move forward. Everyone has trouble sometime, It doesn't matter who helps, what they believe, or what they look like: help is help. So, Jesus celebrated differences and joined hands in the work of compassion.

Cooperation with people and ideas that are different, or getting to know folks in the neighbourhood, is a great way to discover God present in the action of good-hearted people everywhere. We have a piece to offer with our own faith understanding, traditions and gifts. Mutual respect enriches us all.

### **Stumbling**

To cause to stumble is to prevent someone from getting where they need to go. That was the error of the disciples. In the first reading<sup>2</sup>, Joshua wanted to stop Eldad and Medad because they were not with the gathered group. We hear strong language from Jesus about that attitude and a frustrated comment from Moses. When people don't live on the basis of openness and compassion, a spiritual problem is present. God's love makes no distinctions. I used to tell prison chaplains from a broad cross-section of religions and traditions, *"Leave your conflicts behind when you come to the chapel. Our work in this setting is too important to be fighting with each other."* There were times when we had to let people go because of the squabbling.

I don't know how long it took the disciples to be able to work with others. Maybe they eventually learned. The joy of my heart is when we put away prejudices and sectarianism and become friends with the people we used to think of as strangers.

Jesus raised the issue of hands, feet, and eyes in this context. It means no pushing away, no refusal to journey together, or dirty looks. Those in need of help aren't interested in what kind of card or banner we carry — all they want is for someone to care.

### **Salt**

Jesus adds that we will all be "salted with fire." Everyone has their troubles. But together we can get over it. Salt adds taste. Working together brings out the unique flavour of everyone — for everyone.

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<sup>2</sup> Numbers 11: 26-29

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We collaborate in all kinds of ways. By combining energy we can be a colourful force of compassion and do more than we ever could separately. *CLWR* helps us to clear the way for compassion with new friends. We are not each other's stumbling blocks. We are each other's keepers. As we work together Christ blesses us all.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day #576 We All Are One in Mission**

**We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission compels us from above  
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.**

**We all are called for service, to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are diff'rent; our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,  
so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.**

**Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.  
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

*Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955*

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**Prayers of Intercession**

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence)*

God of creation, our planet is showing the burden of human-made climate change. Bless all work of providing life-saving food assistance and rehabilitation of water sources. Help us learn from struggling communities how best to serve them in their own settings. God of steadfast love and faithfulness, **Hear our prayer.**

God of partnerships, we pray for new friendships as we work together with other faith communities. We remember our **Bishops Kathy and Susan**. We pray for our **Bishops Kathy Martin & Susan Johnson**; for *Spirit of Life Lutheran* in Vancouver & **Rev. Aneeta Saroop**; and for *North Thompson Ecumenical Shared Ministry* in Barriere and Clearwater & **Rev. Bruce Chalmers**. God of steadfast love and faithfulness, **Hear our prayer.**

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God of the nations, fill the hearts of all who govern with such a sense of your justice that their striving for power and dominance is transformed into decision-making that meets the needs of people worldwide. God of steadfast love and faithfulness, **Hear our prayer.**

God of the orphan, widow and stranger, thank you for resettlement teams, sponsoring communities of faith and all who assist the welcome of refugees to Canada. God of steadfast love and faithfulness, **Hear our prayer.**

God of the marginalized, we rejoice in the educational opportunities and vocational training for women which have supported self-sufficiency and security among the world's people, regardless of religious beliefs, race or gender. God of steadfast love and faithfulness, **Hear our prayer.**

God of relationship, as you build us into a worldwide community of loving care. We rejoice that *CLWR* has helped communicate the sufferings of people around the world and challenged us to be neighbour in response. God of steadfast love and faithfulness, **Hear our prayer.**

God of healing grace, comfort all who have lost hope and those who mourn losses. Open our hearts toward the world around us. Hear our petitions for those whose names we say aloud or silently in our hearts...

*Ahmad H; Ana B; Anne-Marie B; Bill & Donna B; Carolyn B; Cayleigh B;  
Chris B & family; Sarah B; Carol D; Gary G; Helena G; Elizabeth H; Dennis K;  
Kari K; Donna & Larry K; Ryan K; Charlotte M; Colleen M; Lilah M; Mary M;  
Carole O; Paula O; Brittany P; Joe & Sally S; Laura S; Colin V;  
the Wichert family; John & Marily; Lorraine & Al; June; Kristi; Miriam;  
Tania; Pastor Kristen Steele; Zack...*

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, **Hear our prayer.**

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. We thank you for the survival of Indigenous cultures. 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. God of steadfast love and faithfulness, **Hear our prayer.**



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All this and whatever else you see that your people need, grant us all, gracious God for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 & Prayer**

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**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...*)

**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.***

**Take this Bread** (*see insert*)

**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.**

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. Do this in remembrance of me.

**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.**

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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.

**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. Do this and remember, remember me.**

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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Happy are those who trust in the Lord.**

**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.**

**Communion Hymns:**

**Hymn #574 Here I Am, Lord**

**"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.***

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**"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***

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

*Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946*

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**Hymn #661 I Love to Tell the Story**

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

***Refrain***

***I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

**I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy word. *Refrain***

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain***

*Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911*

**Prayer & Anointing for Healing**

This is the Sunday when we have prayer and anointing for healing. I invite you to receive the cross as a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the Triune God. For a short moment bring to mind and heart any pain or brokenness in your life... and then...step forward for prayer and anointing...

*Those on Zoom can use simple olive or other oil if available, on the thumb or*



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*finger; or (without oil) simply make the sign of the cross on your forehead or on each other and say...*

***“Receive this as a sign of forgiveness and healing in Jesus Christ.” Amen.***

**Concluding Prayer**

O, Lord God, Come touch our lives in the moments we are fragile, and in our weakness your great strength reveal. Help us then to rise, and take up our cross to follow and to serve. Steady our nerves, come and bless our lives as we offer compassion to others this week. **Amen.**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song #835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High! (*Verses 1, 2, 3, 6*)**

**All creatures, worship God most high!**

**Sound ev’ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;**

**sing, sister moon and stars of night:**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain**

**you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Dear sister water, useful, clear,**

**make music for your Lord to hear:**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,**

**drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Dear mother earth, so rich in care,**

**praise God in colors bright and rare:**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**O sisters, brothers, take your part,**

**and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**All creatures, bless the Father, Son,**

**and Holy Spirit, Three in One:**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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*Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite*  
*Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.*

*Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.*  
***Thanks be to God.***

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Worship Assistants Today

Hymnologist: *Cheryl Satre* (musician selecting hymns):

Reader: *Lewis Bakker*

Prayer: *Cynthia Cantelon*

Communion Assistants: *Flo Bender, Marilyn Gross,*

Zoom Hosts: *Marlis & Jamie*

Zoom Greeters: *Dorothy Pagan, Linda Harvey*

Usher: *Fred & Carol*

Musician: *Cheryl Satre*

Prayer and Anointing: *Rev. Bill Fehr*

Presiding: *Pastor Terry Richardson*

*Readings for Sunday, October 6 — Pentecost 20*  
*Genesis 2: 18-24; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16*

Announcements

- **Monday, September 30** is *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation & Orange Shirt Day*. We wear **orange** today to mark our support.