



Hope Lutheran Church Summer Worship Service *July 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.*

We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and worship on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Your creation gives thanks to you, O God.

And we, your faithful, bless you.

We shall speak of the glory of your realm and tell of your merciful power.

We shall let all people know your mighty deeds and glorious splendor.

Confession & Forgiveness

Let us confess to our God, for the Lord is just in all his ways and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

God, you uphold those who are falling and raise up all who are bowed down. Therefore we confess our sins — both things we have done and things we have left undone — in every confidence that you will open your hands to us in an embrace of forgiveness and love. Amen.

Dearly beloved, through the power of the Spirit that is at work within us, God forgives our sins and strengthens our inner beings. So now live knowing the love of Christ, which surpasses all knowledge and fills us with the fulness of God.

Gathering Hymn #461 All who Hunger, gather Gladly

All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.

Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.

You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.

Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.

We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.

Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed.

Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

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Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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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.**

Prayer of the Day

Generous God, you give us what we need and satisfy our desires in due season. Grant that we may be strengthened through your Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, that you may accomplish within us far more than all we ask or can imagine. **Amen.**

Children's Corner

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

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Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 6:1-21

The Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

We tried pulling a small tree stump out of the garden recently. We dug and chopped and hacked and sawed and tugged and pulled and huffed and puffed in the process. We couldn't yank it out "by the roots" because



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they went too deep. I finally decided to give up, and the remaining roots may give rise to other trees. I wonder if the roots were holding the ground or was the ground holding on to the roots? Hard to say, maybe both. I'm reminded of St. Paul's words in our second reading today about being "*rooted and grounded in love.*" That is a powerful grip...

Paul

When St. Paul wrote the words in that reading, the one who used to throw other people in prison was under house arrest in Rome. As the story goes, God got his attention and sent him to others. Over the years he helped establish churches, but was now a captive, limited in what he could do.

He adapted by using what he had: pen and paper. He also received visitors, talked, provided direction, and prayed. He discovered that the dimensions of God's love overcame circumstances. Being rooted in God's love and grounded in community kept him going. We still hear him today.

He kept using the word "*you, you, you*" plural pronouns meaning, "you folks." He prayed that the spirit of Christ would guide a congregation living with love and forgiveness for others.

Originally, the letter was to the Christians of Ephesus, one of the big cities of his day. It was a port city of commerce, activity, and diversity. He made it very clear that the church is always present for others (like Jesus and the 5000). Where there are lots of people, there are lots of problems, brokenness, and messes. The Ephesians had a message of God's care for their neighbors.

His words are also for us. The Lord pulls us together to be his presence today. He prays that we are *strengthened inwardly*, that *Christ finds a home in our hearts* and that we are *rooted and grounded in love*. It is a prayer that we know who we are.

Someone has said that the risk we take when we invite Jesus into our life is that he always brings his friends along. God so loved the world, you see. It creates all kinds of interesting possibilities and adventures.\

Jesus

A huge crowd gathered around Jesus in the gospel reading and he decided his disciples should feed everyone. Philip knew it was a big problem. Andrew hesitated but brought forward a boy with some buns and a few pickled fish. It was impossible.

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With a smirk on his face, I think, Jesus had the people sit down, took the offering and gave thanks. Even a little was enough... more than enough. I don't know what happened but all four gospels talk about it. I guess you had to be there.

The Gospel of John calls a story like this a “*sign*” rather than a miracle. Miracles are like fireworks, spectacular and in a way magical. People have always tried to figure out water becoming wine, bread and fish multiplying, water walking, and how the dead could be raised. Scientists resist what is illogical, rationalizers interpret everything metaphorically, translators play with words and phrases.

John tells us about the *sign*. We know signs. A *sign* delivers a message: an arrow points a direction; a red octagon stops us; a yellow triangle slows us down; a bony hand tells us to wear rubber gloves; “Keep Out” turns us back; a police uniform gets our attention. These are *signs*. The story provides a sign.

People came and Jesus intended to provide for them. It wasn't a ministry to the poor. The people weren't complaining about hunger. But he just would provide daily bread. The sign says *God provides. One way or another daily bread is given.*

Philip mumbled, “*We don't have the resources.*” Andrew complained, “*There is not enough!*” The people sat down. Jesus gave thanks, shared, and everyone had enough. Food passed from hand to hand to hand. That sign says: *God cares for us and our neighbor. Do we notice how it works?*

CLWR donations get multiplied by government matching. Quilters work together and people are warmed. People bring food or clothing to a common place and people are fed and clothed. God is at work in the midst of us — whether we see it or believe it or not.

Enough is enough

How can there be enough when there isn't enough? We pay attention and don't run away. The needy are right in front of us. Some are lonely. They feel invisible. What do we bring? Maybe all that is needed is a little. The sign with the crowd said: *God notices and has people to help.*

At communion, the blessing grows when the bread is broken. When we are present for others, a little is enough. The *sign* is: *God is present where there is brokenness.*

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It was a huge mixed crowd. Nobody that day was faultless, before or after the bread and fish. Maybe being perfect isn't the most important thing. Maybe being together is. Grace is offered. Jesus is a sign that says: *God is here for you.*

Sit down, he said. Eat. Remember me. Do this. "*I am with you,*" says the sign of the bread and fish, and the sign of bread and wine.

Every month we offer a little church service at Eden Gardens. I tell a story and we pray. John plays and to close we sing Jesus Loves Me. In that moment those people crippled by dementia and Alzheimer's sing with full hearts and it inspires me every time. This friendship with Jesus, this trust, makes those disciples brave. Everyday life shifts but the song is a sign telling them they are not alone.

Rooted and Grounded

We have what we need here: resources, friendliness, caring, welcome. We have enough to offer. We place faith in God's presence among us. God helps us stand and blesses whatever we put forward to meet needs around us.

God meets us at baptism and at the table as we worship, so that we can serve others. With those promises—as many times as we stumble, we'll be helped up; as many times as we fail, we'll learn and grow; wherever there is sin, we are pardoned; when we're sinned against, we'll find a way to forgive; and when we die, we'll rise.

Jesus' words and actions are signs: *I am with you* is the message. God is present. Rooted and grounded in the powerful grip of Christ's love, we live. **Amen.**

Hymn of the Day #515 Break Now The Bread Of Life

**Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you, O living Word.**

**Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my All-in-All!**

You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,

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your holy word the truth that rescues me.

Give me to eat and live with you above;

teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt.

Prayers of Intercession

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

(A brief silence)

God of generations, you work in us far more than we can ask or imagine. Bless the church you have called into being across time and space, and fill it with the power of the Spirit for loving service. We pray for our **Bishop Kathy Martin**; for *Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran* in Langley & **Retired Pastor Marlys Moen**; and *St. Mark's Lutheran* in Vancouver & **Pastor Ingrid Cramer-Doerschel** In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of field and forest, streams and seas, you are the fullness of all things. As grains of wheat grow upon the earth and fish swim in the waters, sustain your creation. Protect harvests and give every person food in due season. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God beyond borders, you rule all in all. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers, shield those who live, work, or serve in harm's way, and bring an end to war and conflict. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering, especially...

Ahmad H; Ana B; Anne-Marie B; Bill & Donna B; Carolyn B;

Chris B & family; Carol D; Gary G; Elizabeth H; Margaret H; Kari K; Donna & Larry K; Charlotte M; Colleen M; Mary M. D; Carole O; Paula O; Colin V; John & Marily; Lorraine & Al; Kristi; Miriam; Tania;

Pastor Kristen Steele; Zack...

... as well as families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, you root us and ground us in love. As you inspired our ancestors in this place in their ministry, sustain us also in new endeavours,

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that your glory may be made known, and your lovingkindness shared anew. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, your love in Christ surpasses all knowledge. We give thanks for the departed who have come to know the fullness of your grace. Join our voices with theirs (*and with musicians Johann Sebastian Bach, Heinrich Schütz, and George Frederick Handel*) and all the saints in singing your praises. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Offering

Offertory: Great is Thy Faithfulness

The Meal

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... (the pastor continues...)

Hymn #473 Holy, Holy, Holy (sung three times)

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God.

Text: Argentine traditional

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread (*raise the 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.*

And again, after supper, he took the cup (*raise 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.*

Amen.

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Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. 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.**

Bread: "Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you."

Cup: "Take and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you."

Communion Hymns

Hymn #482 I Come With Joy

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,
alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

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Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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Hymn #485 I Am the Bread Of Life

**"I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.**

No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

Refrain

***"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."***

**"The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever, you shall live forever." *Refrain***

**"Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you." *Refrain***

**"I am the resurrection, I am the life.
If you believe in me, even though you die,
you shall live forever." *Refrain***

**Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who have come into the world. *Refrain***

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

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Prayer after Communion

We rejoice with thanksgiving for all we have received. Multiply the gifts we offer so that the world may more deeply know fullness of life in you. **Amen.**

Blessing

God feed you with open hands, protect you with mighty arms, heal you with gentle fingers. The scent of bread, fish, and grace linger in the clothing of your heart and renew your faith when the strong sea winds blow. **Amen.**

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Sending Song #547 Sent Forth By God's Blessing
Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

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

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Worship Assistants Today

Hymnologist: *John Collett* (musician selecting hymns):

Reader: *Al Pope*

Prayers: *Peter Clark*

Communion Assistants: *Flo Bender, Frieda Kalack*

Zoom Hosts: *Steve, John*

Zoom Greeters: *Dorothy Pagan, Linda Harvey*

Usher: *Fred & Carol Wilke*

Musician: *John Collett*

Readings for Sunday, Aug 4 — Pentecost 11

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

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