



## ***Hope Lutheran Church Hybrid Worship Service*** ***July 31, 2022 — Pentecost 8***

*We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and worship on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Hay ch'qa.*

**Presiding pastor – Bishop Ray Schultz**

### **Welcome & Announcements**

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

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth. Glory to you for oceans and lakes for rivers and streams. Honour to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection. Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from the gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray: *Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us and drown the evil around us. Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

#### **Gathering Hymn # 647 Glorious Things Of You Are Spoken**

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**

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

#### **Children's Corner**

#### **First Reading – Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given

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to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me —and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labours under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

*Word of God, word of life.*

***Thanks be to God.***

### **Second Reading – Colossians 3:1-11**

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life.

But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

*Word of God, word of life.*

***Thanks be to God.***

### **Gospel – Luke 12:13-21**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke.*

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

Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I

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will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

*Praise to you, O Christ.*

### **Sermon**

Jesus was raised on the Scriptures.

One of the books in his Bible we know by the Greek name, *Ecclesiastes*.

It means “the gathered people.”

The Hebrew name is *Qoheleth*, that is, “The Preacher.

It is a collection of sermons on the basic meaning of life.

Today’s reading deals with the empty pursuit of things.

In other words, greed.

We all know greedy people.

I have a story that sticks in my memory.

When I was a young pastor in Edmonton a member of a local businessmen’s service club recruited me to become their padre.

Or, as they jokingly called me, “the keeper of the morals.”

In one of its fundraising events, the club ran an elimination raffle for a compact car donated by a local dealer.

In an elimination raffle tickets are drawn out until the remaining ticket holder becomes the winner.

When only two tickets remained, one of the members knew his was one of them. He immediately began to harass the other ticket holder by phone to sell him his ticket.

In the final draw, he lost.

He flew into a rage, climbed onto the stage and began to demand that since he had offered to buy the other ticket, he should be the winner. Security eventually removed him from the building.

The attendees were shocked. It was just a little compact!

The guy was already rich.

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However, that man's greed led him to overreach in his business dealings until he ended up a lonely, broken *persona non grata* among his colleagues.

For all his pursuit of wealth, that man suffered from poverty of spirit.

Jesus, and Qoheleth centuries before him, knew that full humanity came from sharing with the other members of one's community.

A fully human spirit is a generous spirit.

Greed arises out of a spirit broken by fear.

Some fears are legitimate.

Fears that warn you against danger are legitimate.

Fears that there is not enough food or resources to support a family is legitimate fear.

But some people's fears distort their ego; their sense of self.

It is the fear that one is not enough, that one must be more.

To have enough ends up not being enough.

To have those fears is to suffer a spiritual illness that needs healing.

The writer to the Colossians saw that kind of illness among the members of his congregation.

So he wrote:

*...your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.*

*(3:3-4)*

*...you have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed...according to the image of its creator. (3:10)*

These words are medicine for the spirit.

They allow one to strip off the old self that suffers from a distorted ego.

Like many good medicines, these words are not a quick fix.

They are part of personal growth.

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Faith is such an experience in growth.

The medicine supports you while you go on with your growth.

That life will still be full of challenges and difficulties.

Life is not without pain.

Anyone in a *Twelve Step* program like AA or AL Anon will tell you that.

Most healing of this kind does not remove pain, but give you a wholeness of self that allows you to accept life for what it is and yourself for who you are.

In time it also allows you to let others be who they are; to let them have what they have.

Monday's *Globe and Mail* ran an article about the prevalence of mental illness among practitioners of the law, including several top judges.

Yet, the stigma to admit need is so strong that most suffers have kept silent.

It has taken the courage of former Supreme Court justice Clément Gascon and Ontario Chief Justice George Strathy to “speak in deeply personal terms about the issue.”

The article goes on to quote Mr. Gascon:

*[Law] is a profession where you find a lot of high achievers, high performers, persons who tend to be a bit like I am: perfectionist. And perfectionists tend to push the envelope for fear of not being good enough, for fear of disappointing, or the fear of failure sometimes.*

This story touched me in a very personal way.

I had my first depressive breakdown in my 40s and remained in treatment for years.

When I shared what I had learned about depression with the pastors of the Greater Vancouver Conference, there wasn't much response, except for two members who whispered to me that it had happened to them too, but they hid it.

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Even though I knew, medically, that it was a brain dysfunction, it took a toll on my spiritual life. There was always the anxiety that I must work harder, do more, be more than I was. The doctrine of grace somehow didn't reach me in spite of my preaching.

I can preach today because where Jesus is concerned, there are no illegitimate children in God's kingdom.

Whatever ways we use to distinguish people are irrelevant.

Martin Luther taught that each morning, when we wash our face, we should remember that we are baptised into new life.

That is the gospel promise under which we live, whoever we are, however we are.

That is the gospel in which my faith lives today.

Amen.

**Hymn of the Day** # 685 Take My Life, That I may Be

**Prayers of Intercession**

Seeking in ourselves the mind of Christ, we pray for all believers, the world, and those in need. To the words "*Teach us to live your kingdom here and now*" you are invited to respond "**Help us, we pray.**"

*A moment of silence*

Re-orient our values so that they align with our new life in Christ. Teach us to love what is truly worthwhile, reject mindless consumerism, and treasure life made real by love and compassion. May that radical re-orientation mark our life together as your church and make us active in justice and mercy in the world outside the church doors.

*Teach us to live your kingdom here and now,*

**Help us, we pray.**

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Make us hear and answer the earth's call for generous care. Teach us to notice and celebrate the growth in gardens and fields. Give strength to gardeners, farmers, ranchers, and labourers who toil in summer heat as they produce the food we eat. Through fair distribution of the earth's bounty and creative food reclamation by food banks, may the hungry receive their due.

*Teach us to live your kingdom here and now,*

**Help us, we pray.**

Open our eyes to all the ways in which the world reflects your image of peace and creativity. Teach us to rejoice in how much better life is today than in much of human history. May our longer, healthier lives become dedicated to calling on people in power to create an even better place for rich and poor alike.

*Teach us to live your kingdom here and now,*

**Help us, we pray.**

Help us cling to the reality that you have provided abundance for your people. Lead us to find ways to spread available resources creatively so that more and more people have their needs met—their basic needs for food and shelter, but also their needs for beauty, joy, and time for rest and reflection.

*Teach us to live your kingdom here and now,*

**Help us, we pray.**

Comfort those who are lonely, who have too few people with which to share the everyday events and insights of life. Make strength arise in those who suffer from illness, anxiety, depression, or stress—and from the fevered pace of life and change. We pray especially for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts.

*Dan A; Hillary A; Lyanne B; June C; Kent C; Ron C; Michaela E; Anne G; Anne H; Gary G; Hallowyn H; Holly H; Arlene K; Baby K; Donna K; Gloria L; Gail M; Gayle Mc; Carole & Clyde O; Eva R; Maureen R; Audrey S; Myra S; Sha-ron & Charlie S; Janice V; Barbara & Al; Dillon & Trinity; Ingvar; Jordan; Kira; Kon Tet Chin; Noel; Quinn; Susan; Zak... and their families.*

*Teach us to live your kingdom here and now,*

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**Help us, we pray.**

Bless our efforts to join hands with other faith traditions, especially with the *Anglican Church of Canada*, other churches of our area, and our own **Bishops Kathy and Susan**. We offer prayers for the churches of our synod, especially *Shepherd of the Valley* in Langley and **Pastor Kristen Steele** and *Hope Lutheran Shared Ministry* in Mackenzie.

Teach us to live your kingdom here and now,

**Help us, we pray.**

Gracious God, you are our peace. We pray for peace between Russia and Ukraine. We pray for the people of Ukraine – those who are forced to flee, those who are trapped and unable to flee, those who are in need of aid, those who have died. We pray for Ukrainian and Russian soldiers, that they may be moved to lay down their weapons. We pray for world leaders, that they would be led into your ways of peace and justice. We pray for our whole world who watches and worries. God have mercy!

*Teach us to live your kingdom here and now,*

**Help us, we pray.** All this and whatever separates us from you, we pray in the name of the Christ. **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 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

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.

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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.*

And 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.*

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 glory and honor, now and evermore. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer Song**

[https://mixcord.co/acapella/p/CKt\\_sqf1Cs0VGqvSrwZi-A/](https://mixcord.co/acapella/p/CKt_sqf1Cs0VGqvSrwZi-A/)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
Hallowed be your name, Hallelujah.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth  
As in heaven, Hallelujah.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Give us today our daily bread, give us today our bread,  
Give us our bread today, Hallelujah.  
Forgive our sins as we forgive  
Forgive our sins as we forgive those  
Who sin against us, Hallelujah.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Save us from the time of trial, save us from the trial.  
Deliver us from evil, Hallelujah.  
For the kingdom and the power are yours,  
The kingdom and the power are yours,  
The glory now and ever, Hallelujah.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah. Amen.**

### **Communion**

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

*(If you are with someone else, say these words as you offer communion...)*

**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."**

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Communion Hymn: # 542 O Living bread From Heaven

**Benediction**:

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** # 840 Now Thank We All Our God

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God!**

+

Worship Assistants Today

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

Reader: *Gerry Jacob*

Prayers: *Bonnie Loehr*

Zoom Hosts: *Glenn* (Spotlighter); *Gerry O* (C1/PTZ); *John M* (C2).

Zoom Greeters: *Bill & Caroline Fehr*, *Sue Grant*, *Dorothy Pagan*

Presiding: *Bishop Ray Schultz*

Pianist: *Pippa Williams*

Readings for Sunday, August 7 Pentecost 9

*Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40*