

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RICHMOND HILL

Pentecost 8

JULY 14, 2024

PRELUDE *Ethan Kwan*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
Let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection

Eternal God our creator.

In you we live and move and have our being.

Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands.

Forgive us all our offenses

and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.

**By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us.

In the mercy of almighty God,

Christ died for us while we were still sinners,
and for his sake, God + forgives you all your sins.

Amen.

HYMN ELW # 556 MORNING HAS BROKEN

Morning has broken like the first morning,

blackbird has spoken like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,

like the first dewfall on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,

sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning

born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation, praise every morning,

God's recreation of the new day!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works. Give to us, your servants, the peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also, that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

AMOS 7:7-15

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words.

For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'" And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85:8-13

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying;
**for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to who turn to their hearts to you.**

Truly your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before the Lord,
and prepare for God a pathway.

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,

having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts.
That we may know the hope to which God has called us. Alleluia.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

MARK 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested,

“I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *Reverend Victoria Featherston* Thornhill Lutheran Church

HYMN: ACS # 1062 BUILD A LONGER TABLE

**Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
Feeding those who hunger, making room for all.
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
Christ breaks walls to pieces, false divisions end.
Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
Where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.
Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence,
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences; all are welcome here.
When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home**

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

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

A brief silence

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. Bless the work of all who tend the crops that feed our communities. Send forth ample rain and sun. Speak peace wherever homes, towns, businesses and lands are damaged by, hurricanes, floods, fire or storms.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. Come to the aid of all nations and leaders who fear storms and conflict, violence, or injustice, especially Israel, Palestine, South Sudan, Haiti, Russia and Ukraine. Raise up advocates and peacemakers to speak truth and hope into the world.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Saving God, grant endurance and comfort to all who suffer affliction, hardship, hunger, violence, or sleepless nights of pain or anxiety. Send comfort to the grieving, especially the family and friends of Mary Pavlik and Philip Kampf.

Give your promise of healing to Ingrid, Brett, Hans,
and all we hold in our thoughts and hearts.....

pause

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities. Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations for those denied a place at the table kept only for the privileged so that our actions match our prayers so all feel truly welcome.

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 Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life

HYMN DURING OFFERING

ELW # 479 WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST

**We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind, the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay with us; still
we come, we come to the hungry feast.**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
In the harmonious world of your creation
The plants and animals, the seas and stars
Were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world
You sent your Son to heal our ills
And to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing,
His body given up, and his victory over death,
We await that day when all the peoples of the earth
Will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal;
As grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
So let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
That all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.
Through him all glory and honour is yours, Almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

*you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words
"the body of Christ given for you" "the blood of Christ shed for you"*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

Thanks be to God.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: ELW # 805 LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL

**Lead on, O King Eternal,
The day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest
Your tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation
Your grace has made us strong;
And now, O King Eternal,
We lift our battle song.**

**Lead on, O King Eternal,
Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
And holiness shall whisper
The sweet amen of peace.
For not with swords' loud clashing,
Nor roll of stirring drums;
But deeds of love and mercy
The heav'nly kingdom comes.**

**Lead on, O King Eternal,
We follow, not with fears,
For gladness breaks like morning
Where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us,
We journey in its light;
The crown awaits the conquest;
Lead on, O God of might!**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace. Live and love in the truth and joy of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Ethan Kwan*