

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 27th, 2021
10 A.M. Communion



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
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SOUL Ministry: Trinda Rensen/Gillian Leaver
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: Judy Mason chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: O Lord, whose gracious presence never fails to guide and govern those whom You have nurtured in Your steadfast love and worship, make us ever revere and adore Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musician: 10 a.m.— Susanne Anderson
Reader: 10 a.m.— Gloria Meyer

Sunday School: *What Can I do to help others?* <https://youtu.be/w6ZdJguCjJE>
Precious Moments: *Timothy* https://youtu.be/K_exdOp9s0c
Children’s Message: *Do not fear, only believe!* <https://youtu.be/dbP0XuIB3Yg>

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: John 8: 1-11 Wed.: Matt. 5: 43-48 Friday: Rom. 15:1-7
Tuesday: 11 Cor. 2: 5-11 Thurs: Romans 4: 1-8 Saturday: Gal. 6: 1-5

COVID 19 – PROTOCOL: Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ Lutheran Church, let us continue to be mindful of COVID 19 by following all safety measures and protocols. If you have any of the symptoms outlined by Public Health, please remain at home. Services are available online.
If attending worship, please:

- *Wear a mask covering both your mouth and nose at all times.*
- *Sanitize your hands frequently*
- *Practice social distancing, 2 metres or 6 feet apart*
- *Ensure you have a temperature check before entering*
- *Ensure your attendance is noted at the entrance doors.*

WORSHIP NOTE:

Dear family of Christ Lutheran Church: At our council meeting in May, the decision was made that we would offer only the 10 AM Blended worship service until further notice.

In compliance with Ontario Provincial Step 1, effective June 13, we can now offer in-person worship at 15% capacity (40-45 people).

We will update information on this as the province-wide plan of opening unfolds by regions and sectors over the next number of weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), phone the church office or email Pastor Todd [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com].

- **Sunday Service will be live-streamed at 10 AM** on Facebook: (<https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC>).
- Following the service, a recording will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg>).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jonah Hoeffs who turned 19 on June 26th! Mom & Dad can't believe how fast the years have gone & are very thankful to the Lord for His never-ending love & guiding presence.

CONGRATS to Nick Hoeffs who graduated Grade 12 from Governor Simcoe High School and Georgia Hoeffs who graduated Grade 8 from Prince Phillip. We are happy for all the young people who've graduated this year after a time of pandemic and lockdowns with unusual learning. We pray for their success and God's richest blessings for a bright and healthy future.

LWMLC NATIONAL ONLINE - CONVENTION - July 8-10, 2021: The LWMLC Convention will be online and can be attended from your home, church, or wherever you may be. Registration is now open and is \$80 per person. Please check the LWMLC website (<https://lutheranwomen.ca/>) for more Convention information as well as how to register: <https://lutheranwomen.ca/events/national-convention-information>



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR "ONLINE VBS"
"TREASURED:
Discovering You're Priceless to God"

You'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't gems, silver or gold
- IT'S YOU!!

Join us online for Bible learning activities, catchy songs, games and crafts.
Collect Bible Memory Buddies that help remind us of God's love.

Videos will be released starting the week of July 12th-16th and will stay online until August 30th.

To register please fill out the form (below) and drop off in the church mailbox (east side of church),
or email to: secretary@christlutheransc.ca
or call the church office at 905-685-8294 or Louise at 905-329-8579

Child's Name: _____ Grade in Sept. _____

_____ Grade in Sept. _____

_____ Grade in Sept. _____

_____ Grade in Sept. _____

Parents Names: _____

E-mail: _____ Cell: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Home Church: _____

Last Sunday Attendance: June 20th, 2021 10 a.m. – 40

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (--)</u>
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	1,150.00	72,234.53	(42,493.35)
Missions	20,000.00	384.62	155.00	7,272.50	(1,189.04)
Property Improvement:			30.00	2,533.50	

COLLECTION NOTE: At this point we are not collecting any materials for the church. This means no milk bags for making mats; no SOUL bingo prizes; no Christmas cards for Sunday School or SOUL; no puzzles for exchange, etc. Thank you.

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR: If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign your name at the back of the church or email: secretary@christlutheransc.ca. Cost is \$25/bouquet

THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN: The Canadian Lutheran is available to read online at: WWW.CANADIANLUTHERAN.CA

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS: Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at:

http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church-Canada, East District Corporation
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1
or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ).

This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

CREATIVE COMMUNION

The 5th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING SONG –

"All Creatures Of Our God & King"

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing

Oh, praise Him, Alleluia!

O, burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam

Oh, praise Him, Oh, praise Him

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

And people, who, with tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,

Oh, praise Him, Alleluia!

**You, with long pain and sorrow bear,
praise Christ and on Him cast your care:**

Oh, praise Him, Oh, praise Him

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,

Come to the help of Your people,

Turning us from our sin to live for You alone.

Give us the blessing of Your Holy Spirit,

that we may confess our sins,

receive Your forgiveness,

and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ,

our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another:

[brief silence for personal confessions]

Gracious Father,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have sinned and turned ourselves away from Your holy face. We are truly sorry for all that we have done wrong and humbly repent. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to You, and uphold us by Your Spirit, so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God our Father, Who is rich in mercy, loved you even when you were dead in sin, and made alive together with Christ our Lord. By grace you have been saved. By the holy command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

O Lord, **have mercy on us;**

O Christ, **have mercy on us;**

O Lord, have mercy on us and give us Your peace. Amen.

PRAISE HYMN

"Glory Be To God On High"



Glo-ry be to God on high, for this our joy-ful cry! Give
Christ Jes - us, Ho - ly One, the Fath - er's on - ly Son, came



peace to all who live on earth, with grace for our new birth!
down to earth from realms on high, born man for us to die.



We praise and glor-if - y, and wor - ship, Lord most high. Our
O Lamb of God, we pray, take all our sins a - way, with



Grac - ious Fa - ther, Heav`nly King, to You a-lone we sing.
Spir - it, Fath - er, God a-bove, we praise Your glo-rious love!

*Words: Bradford Scott © 1991 From a "New Hymnic Setting of Divine Service 3" (98-2989) Concordia Publishing House, USA; Music: Franklin Shepherd, 1852-1930 www.hymnary.org
This is My Father's World tune (TERRA PATRIS)*

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Let us pray: O God our Father, since You have prepared for those who love You such good things as pass our understanding; Pour into our hearts such love for You, that we may love You above all things and obtain Your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE:

The Old Testament *Lamentations 3: 22-33*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning - great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him. The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults. For the Lord will not reject for ever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *2 Corinthians 8: 7-15*

[St. Paul writes:] Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, 'The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.' This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL SONG: *"All Creatures Of Our God"*

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship Him in humbleness

Oh, praise Him, Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father praise the Son, and praise the Spirit three in one

Oh, praise Him, Oh, praise Him

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel *St. Mark 5: 21-43*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 5th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?" ' He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole

truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.' While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON SONG –

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]**

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

**Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]**

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

**Morning by morning new mercies I see:
all I have needed thy hand hath provided--
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

MESSAGE

CANADA DAY ANTHEM: *"O Canada!"*

**O Canada! Our home and native land! True patriot love
in all of us command.**

**With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!**

From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Heavenly Father: thank you for sending Jesus to us, with healing and hope through his death and mighty resurrection. We cry to you in our need. Be merciful and hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. Good Lord, **have mercy and hear us.**

Thank you for your abundant gifts of life and health. And thank you for your fatherly discipline, to correct and train us. Bless our own nation, as we look forward to our Canada Day celebration this week. Build up your people's faith in times of hurt and in health, and keep us always looking to Christ. Good Lord, **have mercy and hear us.**

Thank you for the medical care we enjoy. Continue your healing mercy through it. Give doctors, nurses and all health workers patience and skill for their task, especially as we move out of our pandemic fears and bring them to honour life and healing as your precious gifts. Good Lord,

have mercy and hear us.

We pray for those who lie sick and lonely; for those who suffer debilitating illness without hope of cure. We especially remember in prayer before you...[names added]...And we pray for the mentally ill and for all whom society shuts away. Bless all graduates from schools this year as they look to the future with energy and hope. Relieve distress from those who are depressed or despairing, according to you will and purpose, and give them grace to bear such afflictions. Good Lord,

have mercy and hear us.

Thank you that we have received the good news of Jesus' victory over sin and death, and that we look forward to the final resurrection and life with you forever. Bring Your Word into every home of this city, region and province, and move people to turn away from their sins and believe in Christ as their Helper and Saviour. Good Lord,

have mercy and hear us.

Bless our church and congregation so that we may be effective in proclaiming, teaching and living the Gospel, and so that each of us may take the compassion of Christ to those we know facing personal loss. Good Lord,

have mercy and hear us.

Loving Father, for our sake Jesus became poor so that we might become rich according to your grace. Feed us again with his precious body and blood, and when our last hour comes, take us to our eternal home with you. For you live and reign with Jesus Christ our Lord and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT [SPOKEN]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord: 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 the Church on earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

[Tune: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God"]

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho -- ly, Lord God Al - migh - ty,
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout glo-ries of Your name.
 Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho -- ly, sing -- ing Ho - san -- na!
 Bles -- sed is He Who comes in our Lord's name.

⁶ THE LORD'S PRAYER: "Our Father, Who art in Heaven...."

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always:

And also with you.

LAMB OF GOD:

O Jes-us Chri-st, True Lamb of God; the sins of the world, You
 Take a -- way. Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray;
 And bless us with Your peace; A -- men

COMMUNION HYMN: *"The Church's One Foundation"*

- 1. The Church's one foundation, is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation, by water and the Word.
From Heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.**
- 2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation -- One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.**
- 3. Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore,
Til with the vision glorious -- her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.**
- 4. Yet she on earth has union, with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion -- with those whose rest is won:
O blessed Heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace,
That we, like saints before us, may see You face to face.**

Words: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; Music: "Aurelia" Samuel S. Wesley, 1864. www.hymnary.org/hymn/LSB2006/page/610

SONG OF SIMEON:

"Let Your Servant Depart"

[tune: Sweet By & By]

**Let your servant depart now in peace,
For Your Word from of old is fulfilled,
Your salvation my eyes now have seen,
Long-prepared as it always has been.
In Your light, you reveal, the world's promise and Israel's great joy!
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always may You be adored.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Almighty God, Who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ, as a Sacrifice for sin and the True Example of a godly life, give us grace that as we have received Him in the Holy Communion Feast we may daily abide in Him, hearing and believing His Holy Word and living out our days in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you!
Let us praise the Lord!

and also with you!
Thanks be to God!

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG:

"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"

**Sent forth by God's blessing,
Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended.
O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer His 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 His children of each tribe and 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.**

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REV. TODD HOEFFS

PENTECOST 5

Scripture: St. Mark 5ff

Title: "Blood, Sweat & Tears"

June 27, 2021

We can't escape politics – it's all around us.

The news we see, hear or read is flooded with so many conflicting political interests.

When will our border be re-opened? The information on the vaccines...

Fighting among the middle east nations. Tariffs wars and angry words.

So much fear and uncertainty. And it might be this way for a while.

Author Mark Twain once wrote: If you get none of your news from the newspapers, you are uninformed; If you get all of your news from the newspapers, you are misinformed.

Such is still true. We need to know but we must keep it in perspective and discern it.

With Canada Day this week, 154 years ago we became a united confederated nation – against the ugly backdrop of the bitter American Civil War.

Much uncertainty reigned in those years, too. Forts, farms and ox carts would give way to modernization. Lots of fear and uncertainty, then, as now. It doesn't really change all that much, does it?!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ has unique power. It speaks to politics & at the same time is above human politics. Jesus' Kingdom is, after all, not of this world.

The Gospel's saving message is so freshly relevant in the midst of anything political and at the same time this message from God desires that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of the true freedom in a crucified Lord.

Politics can be deadly. Most people don't like to talk about it.

Christians may dislike it but....

"politics is whenever you have more than one person in a room." True enough.

Mark's Gospel today involves politics.

The nation of Israel tied their religion into their politics.

Many different people wound up on a list of those not loved or favoured by God according to their understanding of God's Law. And if you weren't favoured, you had a poor standing in the community and most certainly could not enter heaven.

Women stood outside the inner circle of Israel's favoured groups.

Wealthy men had the best footing. Poor men less so....then male children, then girls, then non-Jews....then the "sinners".

The long list of those labeled as sinners by the religious elite included the sick.

The bleeding woman is considered a sinner because she's unclean.

A feminine bleeding problem for 12 years. That's 4,380 days. We don't know her name. We don't know where she's from. Anonymous; another unclean face in the crowd. We know she's sick, desperate, and in need. In all those 12 years no one has helped her get better. She's spent all she had: time, money, energy.

She's only gotten worse. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year it's always the same. Bleeding. Her condition made her religiously unclean to enter any holy sanctuary. She had to live far outside the regular community.

Under Israel's interpretation of the Law, a woman in this state is pronounced ritually unclean which means God couldn't accept her and was subsequently barred from entering any holy space until the blood flow stops. 12 years she had to stay away from any sort of public gathering, [talk about an isolated lockdown....how terrible...] whether it be worship, shopping, celebrations, family get-togethers, her life is a perpetual state of uncleanness. It's more than physical.

By losing blood, she's losing her life, its warmth, vitality, and fruitfulness.

That's a spiritual matter, too. Life and death always are. Placing her at odds with her faith, her family and her community. She has no power, no control, no advocacy.

Alone, as good as dead. All of this derives from a misinterpretation of God's Law.

While certain rituals had to keep believers clean to show the world they belonged to God; it was being abused because people in need were refused help.

No one is beyond God's love. The religious leaders let culture and politics and controlling factions dictate how people should be treated. Jesus shows how God's Law must be believed and lived.

He is all about Mercy Compassion Serving Helping....

Jesus is very freeing. His Gospel is freeing. All are welcome. All are loved.

All are included in God's grace. As Lutheran Christians we too misread God's Word, His Law, His teaching, because we desperately want to preserve some ideal.

Soon legalism takes over. –

WE TEND TO WANT NO BOUNDARIES but create our own personal rules so we can do what we want, and ignore what makes us uncomfortable.

We often convince ourselves that once this or that happens everything will be better.

As soon as he changes, as soon as she does what I want,

as soon as the economy gets better,

as soon as I get a new job,

as soon as I have enough money,

as soon as I have more time,

as soon as I get through this project, as soon as

Well, we all have our personal "as soon as" thoughts.

Soon we grow drained of life, just barely going through the motions.

We're alive but not really living. We feel disconnected, isolated, alone.

The bleeding woman ran out of "as soon as" plans.

Today's different. Something's changed. She's heard something about Jesus.

Maybe His teaching, about all the demons He's cast out or the sick people healed, or the storms He's calmed. Whatever she heard about Jesus it's enough to make her believe. She takes a daring, risky leap of faith chance. She's not just a person with a problem, she's someone wanting to get better. She's nowhere else to go, no one else left to turn to, risking getting hurt or abused or killed for polluting a crowd from her uncleanness, she takes matters into her own hands!

Jesus is amazing.

Just gently touch Him, just the outermost hem of his robe, He'll never know, He'll never miss whatever power leaves Him.

She knows Jesus can help just because of Who He is.

Many times, people bumped into Jesus and no doubt never got healed. Crowds elbowed each other all the time, especially traveling in a mob through ancient streets. But this touching is different. Divine power departs from Jesus BECAUSE faith has taken what Jesus freely gives.

Faith ties itself to Jesus, hoping against hope, and won't let go.

Mark chooses a word in the Greek for this woman's touching of Jesus' hem which is used to describe the start of a campfire. It sparks, smokes, lights and whose flames blaze up from the wood. New life roaring. Something amazing is happening.

Jesus' LIFE is flowing through her life, making her new again! This unknown woman, whom the crowd would be angry towards, is called "DAUGHTER" by Jesus.

Daughter. God's daughter. Israel's daughter. Our daughter.

Not just another bleeding woman.

The ONLY time anyone in Mark's Gospel is called such. Not only a term of love, but a lifting up as a holy example of someone who's been made to feel low.

And not only a daughter, but Jesus claims her faith has made her well.

Faith that stopped at nothing to get a little bit of Jesus' Heavenly power, the only thing that could save her. Her faith made her well.

Jesus' own disciples are never said to have such "faith."

Yet, this anonymous, sick, destitute, unclean, woman has faith.

Now she has an identity, a place, and a relationship.

She has been healed and made whole. Fully alive and free to go in peace.

Jesus will heal others and feel all His divine power leave Him.

At the cross. When He dies on Calvary's hill, HIS HOLY PRECIOUS BLOOD flows from His veins. By bleeding and dying, HE cleanses the world.

All sins are washed away. Sickness is restored. Death is emptied of its scary power.

All drained human beings have Jesus' blood pumping through them

by believing that He is the One Who heals all people.

Jesus saves all. And that includes you too. Bringing healing from the sickness of Sin, bringing order to your disordered life. He comes with you in mind.

For the joy of your salvation, He endures the cross, drains His life dry.

Only to fill you all up again in His resurrected glory!

In Baptism He touches you in a way that's even more personal than that encounter on the road with that woman. No, you don't touch His garment. He touches you with baptism. He makes you a son and daughter. His life-blood flows through your life-blood. You touch His Body and Blood when you hold the piece of Bread and the drink of Wine. His touch doesn't get more personal than that.

The hem of His robe is nothing compared with His crucified, risen and accessible Flesh and Blood. And it holds the same power of life. Yours to eat and to drink.

There's no medicine in the world like this. We may feel very much like that desperate woman. Helpless, alone, hurting. We may feel that God isn't listening to all those prayers.

We may wonder at times if there even is a God in Heaven when we see how people and communities and nations bicker and fight and kill each other.

We may be tempted to anxiety, worry, despair and live isolated lives.

We need not fear, our faith makes us well. We go in peace.
We live as forgiven sons and daughters in the world for others to see Christ in us.
Our faith is active and tangible.
The lives our lives touch brings Christ to the culture around us.
Showing the freeing, all-embracing Gospel which knows no limits
Which knows no politics!
Amen.

****HAPPY CANADA DAY ****



