



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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Third Sunday after Pentecost

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ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

A warm welcome to those who are here worshipping on-line with us today! Here at Grace Lutheran we believe God is active in your life. Even you being here now is testament of God's calling and leading in your heart, which you have faithfully heeded. So we welcome you, and pray that today you will be nurtured and that the gifts that God has graciously given you will be stirred for the sake of God's mission in the world.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of Christ, with whom we have been crucified to sin and raised into new life, that we might proclaim the good news of God's grace.

Amen.

Confident in God's promise of this new life, let us turn to God and one another and confess our sin.

We cry to you, O Lord,

and we ask for your mercy upon us.

For we lack compassion, we have failed to care for creation, we disbelieve and mistrust, and we have kept silent on the injustices of the world.

Forgive us and renew us.

Guide us into ways that do not deny you, but lead to peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Friends,

Jesus assured us to be not afraid.

For the one who was and is and is to come knows you through and through, and has overcome death and sin to forgive you, so that you might be delivered into joy that has no end.

Your sins are forgiven.

You are alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

GATHERING HYMN: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (#802)

GREETING

The gracious justice of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the loving mercy of God,

and the communal welcome of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE (p. 184)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and gracious God,

Your steadfast love abides with your people in every age. You teach us to trust in you and promises of blessing and unity and you call us to live in peace with one another in your love.

Show us the way to live grateful lives, that we might proclaim the true worth of your creation, all people including ourselves, without fear or shame, but just the confidence found in Jesus' name, through whom we pray.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13

A reading from Jeremiah.

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

⁷O LORD, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹²O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18

⁷Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

⁸**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

⁹Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹⁰**I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

¹⁶Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.

¹⁷**Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.**

¹⁸Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.

SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11

A reading from Romans.

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

^{1b}Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Christ, Be Our Light (#715)

CREED

With all of God’s people joined together as one church, let us confess the Christian faith with the Apostle’s 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 OF INTERCESSION

Called to live lives of justice and peace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with “in your lovingkindness, O Lord,” and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. In your lovingkindness, O Lord, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord our God, shame has covered our faces, for our sin has prevented us from representing your love in the world. But in your mercy, you have forgiven us and called us into your service, that our example be not one of perfection, but of grace. Increase our confidence in your promises, that we shall not fear but bear our cross for the sake of your gospel. In your lovingkindness, O Lord, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord our God, we sometimes feel as a stranger to our own kindred as doctrinal and theological differences have split us apart instead of bringing us together. Help us to relax our need for power and recognition, and search for ways to be united as the body of Christ. We especially remember in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; our partner Anglican Church of Canada; our bishop Greg, assistant to the bishop Kathy, and national bishop Susan; and our companion congregations of the BC Synod. In particular, we pray for Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Comox and the pastors and leaders that serve there; and for the Seminaries of the ELCIC in Saskatoon and Waterloo and all the students, faculty, and staff that compose those communities. Be with all people of faith as we navigate this pandemic and political landscape. In your lovingkindness, O Lord, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord our God, we have been trying to care for your creation through reducing, reusing, and fasting, but that at times have led to our own reproach. May we persevere in our stewardship, that we might not succumb to the world’s entice of wastefulness and indulgence. In your lovingkindness, O Lord, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord our God, it is difficult to be your disciples as the world continues to scorn us as it scorns you. But you empower us in our fear and uncertainty to continue proclaiming your justice and compassion for all people. May your message of peace reach all nations, that we might one day live in harmony and equality in your name. We pray especially for Solyana Amanuel, that the process around bringing her into our country as a refugee be swift and without complication. In your lovingkindness, O Lord, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord our God, may your love and compassion for us translate into our love for others, as we care and pray for those among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely. Strengthen our ministry to each other and our reception of being ministered to, that we might reflect your love and community to the world. We pray especially for Beulah; Diana; Bev and family; Ron, Tess and Mineko; Paula; Laura; Kandie; Thomas; Linda; Cindy; Chris; those who have contracted or been affected by the COVID-19 coronavirus; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...
In your lovingkindness, O Lord, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord our God, you don’t hide from us, but you draw near to us and redeem us, welcoming us into your eternal kingdom and community. Remind us always of the lives of the saints with whom we are connected in your love, that they continue to inspire us and inform us of your blessing and truth. In your lovingkindness, O Lord, **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the justice found in your grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, we know we need not fear tomorrow, so we offer ourselves to you as you have offered yourself to us through the food that feeds, nourishes, and strengthens us. Bless what we have before us and may it be a reminder of the community and justice we have in the name of Christ, through whom we pray.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who calls us to pick up our crosses for the sake of justice and peace,
joining us with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
in praising your name with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Almighty and compassionate God, for your sake we have suffered reproach and shame has covered our faces. We have become strangers to our own kindred and have been alienated by our peers and those around us. For those who scorn you have begun to scorn us in your name, and our service and devotion to you has turned into our reproach. But you answer us in our cries and lament, O Lord, for your love is kind and your compassion is great. You do not hide your face from us in our distress, but you draw near us and redeem and deliver us through the grace of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, your son, who taught us the ways of your grace, justice, and mercy.

For on that night that Jesus was betrayed, instead of retribution he decided to sit down with his friends for a meal, and he took some bread, and with a thankful heart he broke and shared it and said, "take and eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Then after they had ate, he took the cup and shared that 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."

It is in this food given to us that we remember how we are all equally undeserving but loved, equally broken but healed, equally separated but joined together through God's grace and this mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We don't presume to have compassion for the world as you do, but we attempt it. We don't presume to have earned your forgiveness, but we accept it. We don't presume to understand your love, O God, but we cherish it. For you, O God are holy and majestic, yet your love extends to even us, your called children and servants, dedicated to pick up our crosses and proclaim your truth of justice and grace to the world, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, as one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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 HYMN: Lamb of God (p. 191)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that God is love.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God, you have given us new life, you have given us nourishment, and you have strengthened us to love and serve the community that you have built. May we continue to pick up our crosses to follow you, that we might find the healing and peace for the world in your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Now may God Sovereign, Saviour, and Spirit,
bless you, guide you, hold you, guard you,
and make you bold to live a life of trust, justice, and deep joy,
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Lift High the Cross (#660)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, be convicted to speak truth.

Thanks be to God.