



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

June 30, 2024

WOV Holy Communion, Setting Five: Bread of Life

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

We at Grace Lutheran Church strive to reflect and proclaim the love of God shown to us by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit by providing an inclusive and supportive environment through loving care and community service.

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us in person or online! We appreciate your contribution to the community today: with your voice, your presence, and just the blessing that you are. May you be nurtured by God's Word, empowered by the love of Christ, and stirred by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in this service this day, for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Grace Lutheran Church worships, prays, and serves on the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the hən̓q̓əmiñəḥ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together in this place, to exalt our Lord who has lifted us up in restorative triumph and resurrecting peace. For our Lord has lifted us out of the grave and remembered us with holiness and favour, filling us with strength and joy. So our wailing has been turned into dancing, and we sing to God without ceasing, giving thanks forever. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING HYMN: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (#858)

GREETING

The restorative grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrecting love of God, and the regenerating fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God (WOV p. 29)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Steadfast God, you sent Jesus to reveal to all that no one falls outside your healing reach. Help us to trust in the abundance of your love as we share your compassion and generosity wherever we may go, with you, in Christ, and through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Lamentations 3:22-33

A reading from Lamentations.

The book of Lamentations is one of our most important sources of information about the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 587 BCE. Though the people admit that God's judgment was just, today's reading declares a fervent trust that God will not leave them forever.

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

²⁷It is good for one to bear
the yoke in youth,

²⁸to sit alone in silence
when the Lord has imposed it,

²⁹to put one's mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),

³⁰to give one's cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults.

³¹For the Lord will not
reject forever.

³²Although he causes grief, he will have compassion

according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 30

¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

²**O LORD my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.**

³You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴**Sing to the LORD, you servants of his;
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.**

⁵For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,
his favor for a lifetime.

⁶**Weeping may spend the night,
but joy comes in the morning.**

⁷While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.
You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

⁸**Then you hid your face,
and I was filled with fear.**

⁹I cried to you, O LORD;
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

¹⁰**"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"**

¹¹Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;
O LORD, be my helper."

¹²**You have turned my wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.**

¹³Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to honor their commitment to participate in the collection his churches are organizing for the Christians in Jerusalem. He presents Jesus as an example of selfless stewardship and reminds them that Christians have received abundantly so that they can share abundantly.

⁷Now 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.

⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For 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.

¹⁰And 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—¹¹now finish doing it, so that your

eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 31)

GOSPEL: Mark 5:21-43

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jairus, a respected leader, begs Jesus to heal his daughter. A woman with a hemorrhage was considered ritually unclean and treated as an outcast. Both Jairus and the unnamed woman come to Jesus in faith, believing in his power to heal and bring life out of death.

²¹When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and 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.” ²⁴So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’ ” ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰And 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.

⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!”

⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At

this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Loving God, your Word has the power to restore lives. May we see and hear this redemptive restoration today, through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This weather... am I right? Each week for the past couple months now, I've been hoping that the weather would make up its mind as to what season we're in, because honestly my wardrobe is confused. Not my Sunday wardrobe, mind you, I wear the same thing like every week. But on the non-Sunday days, I never know what jacket or shoes to wear or if I should bring an umbrella with me or not. It's just so unpredictable. I know, we should always expect rain around these here parts, so I guess even when we get that little bit of sun that fills us with so much hope for the summer, we should know that the rain is just around the corner... and with reinforcements.

Don't get me wrong, I know rain is good for the earth and all that, I just don't like it very much because... well... it keeps my car dirty, ok? All this rain, a clean car doesn't make. So needless to say, my car has been pretty dirty as of late.

The rain was actually so bad this week that one day when I got here to the church, I heard the kids from the daycare downstairs chanting "rain, rain, go away, come again another day." Well, less chanting and more screaming at the top of their lungs, but that's kids for you. I thought it was pretty funny. Well, it was for the first 4 and a half minutes of them chanting, but after that I thought that maybe they'd get the hint. It clearly wasn't going to stop raining just because they were asking not-so-nicely.

Their futile chanting reminded me of this time when I was still pretty active in the church youth group that I grew up in. We were getting ready for a car wash fundraiser that day, and I think you can see where this is going. The forecast called for sun all week, but on the day of the car wash we woke up to a very overcast sky and a bit of rain that soon turned into a lot of rain. I already educated you all about the correlation between rain and the cleanliness of cars, so this weather was a bit of a downer for our youth group and threatened to ruin this fundraiser. I remember trying to lift up the spirits of the group, saying, "let's spend some time in prayer for the weather, and hopefully we'll get some sun."

One of the youth leaders at the time sort of burst my bubble by telling the group that praying for something that likely won't happen isn't really a good use of our time, and that we needn't waste our breath.

Of course, I wasn't all that happy with him. Not only did he take my good-hearted and very Christian-like suggestion and stomp on it with the force of a thousand suns, but I felt like this youth leader had just lost all faith. Like can't he believe that God is able to part the clouds like what happened at Jesus' baptism? Doesn't he believe that God can stop the rains like we read about last week? Won't he believe that God cares enough about our carwash to provide us with a miracle so we can raise a bit more money for our summer camp? Is that too much faith to ask?

Well, I guess if we put it that way, maybe he wasn't all that wrong.

Now, I'm not saying that we should give up on prayer, I'm just saying that it can sometimes be discouraging, can't it? I mean, sure we can have faith that God can move mountains, but practically speaking we don't see those mountains move very often, no matter how hard we pray for it to happen.

We don't see very many inexplicable miracles, at least not ones we ask for, not in this day and age. We don't always experience our prayers... answered.

And that's why I feel like it's sometimes hard for us to hear stories like the ones we get in today's gospel reading. And I do mean "stories", plural, as there are two different threads going on here, but both involve a desperation that might resonate with us. Both stories have a faith that might sound familiar. And both of these accounts have a miraculous and instant healing that I have a feeling is completely foreign to anyone here aside from these and other readings from the bible.

So perhaps after reading stories like these, we're left disillusioned, deflated, or discouraged. Thinking that maybe prayer doesn't work after all, so we probably should just stop trying. It's not practical. Not effective. Not really realistic.

And we wouldn't be the only ones that think this.

Look at those disciples. The ones that were supposed to be closest to Jesus, learned the most from him, perhaps the ones that were to pick up wherever Jesus left off. If anyone would have faith, it would be them. But time and again, we see that they actually don't, or at least, what they have isn't very strong.

They're scared of everything. They don't believe in anything. And they constantly say that they can't.

Can't feed the hungry, because they don't have enough food. Can't help the needy, because there are just too many of them. Can't find the one who touched Jesus' cloak, because the crowd is too great. Can't go to this man's house, his daughter is already dead.

We can't, we can't, we can't. It's hopeless.

And we might have a similar attitude from time to time, don't we? Never mind prayer not working, but it's like nothing we try can beat the odds that are so stacked against us. Like, we can't do all the things, can't say all the words, and can't help in all the ways, because we aren't the right age, the right demographic, or don't have the right skills, resources, or people power at our disposal. We just can't.

And so the rains keep raining no matter how many cars we want to wash... but it's far from hopeless.

Because even when the rains fall, God remains faithful. Even when nothing seems to be going our way, God makes a way. Even when we say we can't, God totally can.

Of course, things still might not go for us the way they did for those in this story, we still very likely won't experience that level of miraculous physical healing. But we can and have probably have experienced a kind of spiritual healing, a relationship healing through reconciliation, a wholistic healing that reminded us of who we are and whose we are. Not all healings have to be supernatural. Not all prayers have to be answered with miracles. Not all faith will move physical and literal mountains.

But in the face of debilitating brokenness there is still healing. In spite of the futility and hopelessness in the world, there are still miracles. Even when it seems like our prayers aren't answered, it is still faith.

And again, God doesn't promise us that faith will get us what we want, per se, but faith will heal us. Faith will remind us of how we're lifted up to stand tall even when we are beaten down. Faith tells us not to pray for what we want because it suits us, but instead faith teaches us how to pray for others and shows us how we can be the answer to those prayers in the most miraculous of ways.

Of course, we might not be able to bring people back from the dead. We likely aren't able to cure someone who has been bleeding for 12 years. Heck, I can barely stop a kid from waking up in the

middle of the night because they're feeling nauseous. But we can see each other for who we are and appreciate the contribution that is brought out in the community. We can learn the value of the other and see how we can, in small tiny ways, make their day better. We can recognise the calling that we all share to be God's people in the world, and instead of denying it and saying that it can't be, we can lift up that promise and say yes it can, it totally can.

So while we might still pray for the things that are most convenient to us, let's not be discouraged when it doesn't happen. But rather, we can be encouraged to see how God has worked, is working, and will continue to work for the good of all, in and around our lives and community. We can see how God answers prayers through redemption, reconciliation, and reformation. We can see just how God can.

In this season after Pentecost, let us be reminded of the faith that we've been given and recognise how it helps us, heals us, and brings us back to wholeness in ways that, while might seem normal and mundane, but could only be described as miraculous. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY: How Great Thou Art (#856)

CREED (WOV p. 18)

Together with the church made whole by grace, 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, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

Brought into healing and wholeness by God's grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with "Lord, by your redeeming mercy," and you may respond with **hear our prayer**. Lord, by your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you lift us up and restore us as we cry out to you, showing us the eternal love and joy in your name. Let this be the proclamation to the world that motivates our work and service for all. We especially lift up in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those who use this building for worship, work, and play; our partners Anglican Church of Canada and Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops, rostered ministers, congregations and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular we pray for Benediction Lutheran Church in Delta and the pastors and

leaders that serve there; for King of Life Lutheran Church in Coquitlam and their newly called but not yet installed pastor Dorothy Chu; and for the newly elected bishops across the ELCIC: Rev. Trish Schmermund of Alberta and the Territories, Rev. Ali Tote of Saskatchewan, and Rev. Carla Blakely of the Eastern Synod. Lord, by your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, your favour lasts a lifetime and your faithfulness is revealed throughout all of creation. May our praises to you be reflected in how we care for this planet that you've entrusted to us to live in, that the Earth be properly cared for and tended to for all time. Lord, by your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we are secure in your presence as we are made to be strong as mountains. In you, nothing can shake us or move us. Allow all citizens of the world feel this security, even when the country they live in is not, and bring them to a place where they can be safe and enjoy a good quality of life. We pray especially for the continued support of those that we've sponsored to come into this country: Abraham Barhane; Solyana Amanuel; as well as those who have not yet arrived: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Filimon Abraha. Lord, by your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you hear us and have mercy on us and heal us, for you are our rock and our help. Be especially with all who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, and make apparent your healing and wholeness to all. In particular we pray for Beulah; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Bryan and Chona; Bev and family; Ellwood; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Kristen; Laura; Kandie; Thomas; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Hwee Yang; Ephraim; Georgina; Tom; and all whom we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...
Lord, by your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our hearts sing to you without ceasing and we give you thanks forever, as you welcome us to live with you and all the saints for eternity. Remind us of the role you have given us for this life, that we might confidently live in your joy and peace, now and forever. Lord, by your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the healing grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE (WOV p. 20)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

DIALOGUE (WOV p. 36)

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 offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus our Lord; who shows us the ways of your healing and wholeness, joining us together with all the saints, the hosts of heaven, and the entire church on earth in praising you with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (WOV p. 36)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

O Lord, we exalt your name for all that you have done and continue to do. You lift us up out of our troubles and shame and you restore us into wholeness. You redeem us from the grip of death and your unending favour toward us is revealed. We are made secure in your love and we are strengthened with your grace and mercy as you sent to us your Son Jesus, to live among us to teach of your truth and healing.

For on that night that he was betrayed, Jesus sat with his friends for a meal, took some bread, gave thanks, broke and shared it as he said, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Then after they ate, he took the common cup, and still with thanksgiving in his heart he gave it to them to drink from 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 with this food that our wailing is turned into dancing, even as we contemplate this mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

So our hearts sing to you without ceasing, O God, and all thanks and honour belong to you for all that you are and all that you do through Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (WOV p. 25)

Brought into wholeness by the power of the 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see God's healing and restoration.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (WOV p. 39)

Beautiful Saviour (#838)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God, just as we are fed by this food, so are we nourished by your truth and love. May we find the healing and restoration in your name, that we might always see you and your grace in and around our lives, through the teachings of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God our guardian watch over you and protect you,
Christ the healer lift you up and restore you,
and the Spirit of wholeness bless and sustain you, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: All Creatures, Worship God Most High! (#835)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, healed by God's grace.

Thanks be to God.

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