



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

ELW Holy Communion, Setting Three

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

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 hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm̓ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather today, together in worship, as restored dreamers of what the world can be: full of laughter, joy, and faith in a God who does great things for us. For even in our transgressions, we are welcomed, reconciled, and loved. Even in our shortcomings and failures, we are lifted up, strengthened, and given value and worth. Even in our sin, we are forgiven, restored, and saved. And so we who are lost are found, we who sowed tears can reap songs of joy, we who are weeping can return in rejoicing and praise the name of our God, who leads us into reconciliation and salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING SONG: As We Gather at Your Table (#522)

GREETING

The abundant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the lavish love of God, and the fulfilling fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (p. 138)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all creation, you have formed the world and everything in it, and you know us and call us by name. Strengthen us in our faith, that we might see that whether we are weeping or laughing, dreaming or shouting for joy, that we have a home in you and your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.

- ¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down; they cannot rise;
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 126

- ¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**
³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.
⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**
⁵ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians.

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 142)

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: You Are Holy (#525)

CREED

Together with all of God's invited and welcomed people, 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

Guided into the abundance of our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, “Lord in your generous mercy,” and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. Lord, in your generous mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Holy God, we give you thanks for this season of Lent, in which we can reflect on your abundant blessing and providence. As we look ahead to Holy Week and the Three Days, may our minds be focussed on your grace, mercy, and all the great things you have done for us and the world. Lord, in your generous mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Holy God, we give you thanks for forming the church on mission, for this growing relationship between our two communities of Grace Lutheran and All Saints Anglican, and for equipping us all with your truth and promises for the glory and proclamation of your name. May our witness of your love be reflected in all we do and on all to whom we minister. We especially lift up in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those who use this building for worship, work, and play; our full communion partners: the Anglican Church of Canada and the Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops, rostered ministers, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular we pray for Dunbar Lutheran Church in Vancouver and the pastors and leaders that serve them; for our BC Synod Staff: Bishop Kathy, Assistants to the Bishop Elina, Aneeta, Matthew, and Larry, and Admins Racheal and Durga; and our BC Synod council: Eric, Denise, Dorothy, Ed, Jerry, Jessica, Karen, Ryan, Robin, Stephanie, and Barbara. Lord, in your generous mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Holy God, we give you thanks for all of creation and all its beauty and wonder and resources that supply for our every need. Strengthen us in our care for this planet as it protects and houses us and the generations to come. Lord, in your generous mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the diversity of your people, and yet united by your grace. Be with all world leaders and politicians, that their goal continually be toward peace for all people. We especially pray for the continued support of those that we’ve sponsored to come into our country: Abraham Barhane; Solyana Amanuel; and Filimon Abraha; as well as for those who have not yet arrived: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Mery Gabramikael. Lord, in your generous mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the communities that you put us in, where we can care for others and be cared for by others. Be with all who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that joy and peace be restored in their hearts and in the hearts of all. We pray especially Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Beulah; Joe; Bev and family; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Pastor Kristen; Laura; Kandie; Thomas; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Hwee Yang; Ephraim; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...Lord, in your generous mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the lives of the saints both past and present. Remind us of the eternal community in your name, that we may draw strength from the faith of all your children. Lord, in your generous mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant blessing found in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

DIALOGUE (p. 144)

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 Savior Jesus Christ;
who brings us together and blesses us with abundant grace and welcome,
joining us together with all the choirs of angels,
the hosts of heaven and the whole church on earth,
in praising your name with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 144)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Oh God, you have restored us and filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. You have indeed done great things and you have made us glad. And in the fullness of time, you showed us welcome and reconciliation in the life and teachings of your Son, Jesus, who came to us as one of us, revealing to all the ways of your redeeming love.

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

Then after they ate, he took the cup, gave thanks, and passed it around the table for 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."

For it is in this bread and cup that we find joy and restoration, even as we declare the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

All honour and glory be to you, O merciful and generous God, through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into God's abundant love, 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 welcome into unity and love.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (p. 146)

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet (#523)

God is Here! (#526)

Come and Fill Our Hearts (#528)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Abundant God, you have overflowed our cups with your blessing and you have showered on us grace upon grace. Be with us as we go from here, empowering us as your hands and feet in the world, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May God guide you through the desert places,
Christ lead you into deeper love and blessing,
and the Spirit fill you with faith overflowing with peace, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (#596)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, live in God's love, grace, and blessing.

Thanks be to God.