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**Seventh Sunday of Easter  
June 1, 2025  
Now the Feast and Celebration  
Hymnal Supplement (1991)**

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

*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 hə́n̓qə́mih̓ə́m̓ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

## GATHERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in worship and to rejoice with the multitude of God's beloved, for God's righteousness and justice reigns throughout all of creation, and we declare their greatness and glory. We do not worship carved images or delight in false gods, but we bow down before the Lord, the God of Judah, the most high over all the earth. So we proclaim our love for God, for God has loved us first, and we give thanks to God's holy name, through Jesus our Saviour. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**GATHERING HYMN:** Lord, You Give the Great Commission (#579)

#### GREETING

The unifying grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the reassuring love of God, and the welcoming communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**NOW THE FEAST** (HS p. 4)

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord our God, you open the prison doors and release us from our faults, and you keep us near to you and your heart. May you continue to hear our prayers and supplications, that we might see the work that you do in welcoming us into your kingdom, joining us together in unity, and forgiving us all our sins, through Jesus Christ, through whom we are saved. **Amen.**

## WORD

#### FIRST READING: Acts 16:16-34

A reading from Acts.

*Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.*

<sup>16</sup> One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of

the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 97**

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice;  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- <sup>2</sup> **Clouds and darkness surround the LORD,  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.**
- <sup>3</sup> Fire goes before the LORD,  
burning up enemies on every side.
- <sup>4</sup> **Lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.**
- <sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax  
before the Lord of all the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> **The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD,  
and all the peoples see your glory.**
- <sup>7</sup> Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!  
Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.
- <sup>8</sup> **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O LORD.**
- <sup>9</sup> For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.
- <sup>10</sup> **You who love the LORD, hate evil!  
God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**
- <sup>11</sup> Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the honest of heart.
- <sup>12</sup> **Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous,  
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

### **SECOND READING: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

A reading from Revelation.

*The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.*

<sup>12</sup> "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

<sup>16</sup> "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

<sup>20</sup> The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (HS p. 8)

**GOSPEL: John 17:20-26**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.*

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>20</sup> "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Holy God, your voice is heard in the thunder and silence. By your Spirit may we hear you speak in and around our lives, that we feel the fullness of your love and grace, through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

So the other day I was driving the kids to school, and we noticed a plethora of pylons all over the road, which led us to believe that the lines on the street that leads to the school were repainted overnight. Now, I realise that in itself isn't exactly interesting, it's literally like watching paint dry, but it was the sight of the pylons and the fresh paint that made me chuckle

a little. See, they reminded me of the “not my job” memes that were somewhat popular on the internet a few years back.

If by chance that you’re not one of the like, 4 people here that know what I’m talking about, there were these pictures circulating around the internet with a label of “not my job” or “winner of the ‘not my job awards’” or something, with an image of someone who... how shall we say... wasn’t really looking for a promotion or maybe they were already fired or something. See they depicted a job that was technically done, but probably not in the best or logical way, because some factor that “wasn’t their job” blocked them from doing that job properly. And for whatever reason, most of these pics that I saw were about the painting of road lines. Some examples of these pictures are:



This city worker who couldn't push the dirt off the road or wait for someone to come do it before painting those lines.



Not sure if it's a bird or umbrella, but it couldn't have been that hard for them to just kick it to the side. But hey, not their job, I guess.



And the one that actually started it all, a dead rat now permanently affixed to the road because the worker couldn't be bothered to grab rubber gloves or a shovel or a hockey stick or something.



And my personal favourite, I guess this motorist didn't get the memo that they shouldn't park here during the prime road line painting times. At least they have some new snazzy racing stripes good for at least 3 or 4 hp at the crank.

We see these kinds of pictures calling out this "not my job" mentality, and we chuckle because it's just so ridiculous. I mean, how lazy can people be? How hard is it to just go a couple extra inches to finish the job properly? How narrow does someone have to be to not be able to adapt just a teeny bit in order to do what needs to be done?

Well, for these things in these pictures we'd think that it isn't that hard, we'd be able to do the job right, no problem. But aren't there times when we feel like maybe we'd rather avoid that extra work, we'd rather duck that extra responsibility, we might claim that whatever we don't want to do is above our paygrade so we absolve ourselves from doing it? I mean, if you're anything like me, this might happen more often than we let off. Like, if you're anything like me, you might feel overwhelmed with all things around us that we feel need to be done, you might feel inundated with all the wrongs that we see should be righted, you might feel burdened with the weight of the world.

And in those feelings of being overwhelmed, inundated, and burdened, we might be tempted to shirk away, hole up, or just delay our involvement so then maybe whatever it is that needs to be done can just take care of itself, perhaps then reassuring us that it really wasn't our job after all. Again, this happens to me a lot. I'm not trying to be lazy or irresponsible or anything like that, at least I hope I'm not, but it's just that... there is so much going on in the world. There is so much need even in just our neighbourhood. There are so many evils and subtle sins that should be dealt with. There is just too much to handle, and it gets so tiring just thinking about it.

And so we are tempted to just claim that it's our job so we don't have to deal with it, and maybe our guilt in it can be alleviated.

I mean, look at our first reading for today. Paul and Silas were just minding their own bee's wax when they went and solved a problem that could likely have been bothering more than just them. And what happens? They get the snot kicked out of them and are thrown in jail. I mean, that's gratitude for you, huh? Just do the right thing and get chastised for it like this.

Maybe that is part of the fear of claiming jobs that aren't technically ours but need to be done anyway. Maybe the work won't be appreciated, maybe we won't be seen by our intention of being helpful or even loving, maybe we'll do it wrong and just make things worse. All these are valid concerns, I mean they are some of my biggest fears.

But then to confuse matters even more, look at what Paul and Silas do in the wrongful imprisonment. They go and sing hymns. Their spirits aren't broken. They continue to be joyful, thankful, and praising God.

And that is pretty wild.

How can this even be? How are they able to do that? How do they have this strength, against all odds?

Well, as we see in our gospel lesson for today: Jesus prays for it. Jesus earnestly asks God to give this to them and to us. Jesus wills upon all people the love that raised mountains, formed the heavens, and breathed life into all things.

And this love strengthens us. Moves us. And joins us together in this community, kingdom, and one body of Christ.

This doesn't mean that it's our job then to save everyone and we should be able to do it or else there's something wrong with us. But what it does mean is that it *isn't* our job to save everyone, that belongs to God through Jesus. Rather, our job is but to love.

Love God. Love our neighbours. Love ourselves.

Then perhaps in and through this we might see the role that we play in this body and community as well as the role that others play. Perhaps we might be able to see how we are all connected and equally forgiven by a benevolent God. Perhaps we might be able to see how we all aren't so different in that we are all human, fallen to sin, and in need of a Saviour. A Saviour who was born, lived, died, and risen again. A Saviour through whom we are all redeemed and given value and worth. A Saviour by whom we are all blessed with this boundless love.

See, even when they were fresh from being unjustly beaten and jailed, the Apostle Paul saw his jailor as worthy of this love and prevented him from prematurely ending his own life. Jesus, on the exact night that he was betrayed, saw his betrayers, his deniers, and his abandoners worthy of this love and fervently prayed for and blessed them and us, whether it was accepted or not. And God, throughout an entire history of human sin and unrighteousness, saw all people as worthy of this love and created a plan to reveal to all the gracious and unending welcome into this family and salvation.

This love is the gift given to all of us by God. This love is the foundation of who we are as God's people. This love is the blessing that lifts us up to be more, see more, and do more in God's name.

Again, this doesn't mean that we have to do everything for everyone in order to show them that we love them. That just isn't our job. But it does mean that we are able to be part of the

healing, the joy, and the connection that comes through that love found in this community of God.

So while I might still cringe away from certain responsibilities and duties that I might be afraid of, I can know that even in my failures and successes, even in my shortcomings and strengths, even in what's my job and what's not my job, I, all of you, and everyone who ever has and will live, will continue to be loved and held and united by our gracious God. So much so that we are saved, welcomed, and made to be one with God and each other through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ our Lord.

So as we get to the end of this season of Easter, may we always remember our unchanging position in the body of Christ through the love of God, that we can see how we are emboldened to love God, each other, and even ourselves. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** We All Are One in Mission (#576)

**CREED** (HS p. 11)

With all those we are joined with and are joined with us, 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**

Prayed for by our Lord Jesus Christ, let us in turn pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with "in your loving mercy, O God," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. In your loving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you reign over all the earth, and we rejoice in your goodness and grace. May the love you give to all people be seen and felt in that we do and all that we are. And may the unity of your community be inspired by your Spirit, that all people might learn to strive for peace. In your loving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.



Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne, O God. You raise up your church to be the one body of Christ, united in love and empowered to serve. Increase our faith, that our ministry bear fruit and bring joy. We pray especially for 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 Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Smithers and all the pastors and leaders that serve there; and for our own Grace Lutheran Church here in Burnaby and the ministry that we provide for our community. We also offer a special prayer for the discernment of our National Church as we elect a new National Bishop this summer. In your loving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

The heavens declare your righteousness, O Lord, and we see your glory as revealed throughout all that you have made. Help us to care for the creation that you have entrusted to us, that new life might spring forth and rejuvenate the earth. In your loving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Even the false gods of the world bow to you, O God, for you are the most high over all the earth. Grant your wisdom and compassion to all world leaders, and may we all put down our weapons and learn to work together for peace and joy for all people. We also pray for the continued support of those that we've sponsored to come into this 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. In your loving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

God, you guard our lives and you rescue us. Instill your peace and love in all who are sick, who mourn, who feel lonely, or who have forgotten the abundant joy that comes from you. Grant us strength to care for each other, trusting that we will also be cared for. We pray especially for 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; Kelly; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time... In your loving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Your light dawns on us, O God, as we rejoice in your righteousness and give thanks to your holy name. Remind us of the lives of the saints of past and present and how we are all joined to each other by your love. May we live as one just as Jesus prayed for, by the leading of your Spirit full of love and grace. In your loving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the faith shared in, by, and with us, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

## **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, to at all times and places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and holy God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who brings us together in love and strengthens us by your grace, allowing us to join with him and all the saints and the hosts of heaven in praising your name with this unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (HS p. 15)

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

O God, in you we rejoice and are glad, for you reign over all the earth with righteousness and justice. We declare your glory as you are the Lord, most high over all the earth, exalted far above all gods. You guard our lives and rescue us from evil. And in the fullness of time you send to us your Son Jesus, to teach us and watch over us, praying for us and forgiving our shortcomings and welcoming us into your kingdom.

For on the night that he was betrayed, 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 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 through this bread and cup that we see the light dawning on us, bringing us joy and peace even as we declare the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God you are holy and just. We rejoice in you and give you thanks through Jesus Christ our risen Saviour and loving Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (HS p. 18)

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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see God's love present with us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** Lamb of God (HS p. 18)  
One Bread, One Body (#496)  
What Feast of Love (#487)

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Eternal God, you bring joy out of sorrow, plenty out of want, life out of death. We give you thanks for again feeding us with your Word, your blessing, and your love. Be with us as we go from here, and empower us to be your righteousness and justice for all the earth, through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **SENDING**

##### **BLESSING**

The power of God bless you and keep you,  
the strength of Christ shine on you and be gracious onto you,  
And the fierce love of the Spirit look upon you with favour, and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** We Know That Christ Is Raised (#449)

##### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, live in hope, joy, peace, and love.  
**Thanks be to God.**