



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

7283 Nelson Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5J 4C2

Phone: 604-433-1515

Website: [www.graceburnaby.com](http://www.graceburnaby.com)

Email and e-transfers: [office@graceburnaby.com](mailto:office@graceburnaby.com)

Pastor's email: [pastor@graceburnaby.com](mailto:pastor@graceburnaby.com)

Facebook: [GraceLutBurnaby](https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutBurnaby)

Youtube: [@graceburnaby](https://www.youtube.com/@graceburnaby)



**Thanksgiving Sunday**

**October 12, 2025**

**ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight**

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

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

## GATHERING

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in worship to give thanks to the Lord with our whole hearts. For the works of God are great, majestic, and full of everlasting splendor and enduring righteousness, revealing to all a wondrous and gracious compassion that fills us with hope, joy, and peace. And so may our worship be faithful and honouring to God, that the holy and awesome name above all names be praised, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**GATHERING SONG:** O Savior, Precious Savior (#820)

### GREETING

May the life-altering grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the paradigm-shifting love of God, and the faith-inducing fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (p. 185)

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of our salvation, you are the source of wisdom and joy. Your grace and mercy endure forever, and your steadfast love continues to heal and save. Give us thankful hearts and joyful attitudes, that we be able to see, recognise, and acknowledge you and your righteous work in and around our lives and community and world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

A reading from 2 Kings.

*Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that he also needs healing for his pride. This foreign general then acknowledges the sovereignty of the God of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup> Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. <sup>2</sup> Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease."

<sup>7</sup> When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

<sup>8</sup> But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." <sup>9</sup> So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup> Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." <sup>11</sup> But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! <sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage.

<sup>13</sup> But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you

was, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” <sup>14</sup> So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

<sup>15a, b, c</sup> Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 111**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> **Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup> Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> **You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

<sup>6</sup> **You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup> The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup> **They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup> You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.

<sup>10</sup> **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.**

### **SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-15**

A reading from 2 Timothy.

*Though Paul is chained as a prisoner, the word of God is never shackled or confined. Timothy is encouraged to proclaim that word of freedom in an honest and upright life as well as in his teaching and preaching.*

<sup>8</sup> Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

<sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, he remains faithful—  
he cannot deny himself.

<sup>14</sup> Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. <sup>15</sup> Do your best to present

yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (p. 188)

#### **GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus' mission includes making people clean again. Unexpectedly, a Samaritan healed of leprosy becomes a model for those who would praise and worship God and give thanks for God's mercy.*

<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.

<sup>12</sup> As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance,

<sup>13</sup> they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" <sup>14</sup> When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean.

<sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine?" <sup>18</sup> Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

Holy God, by the power of your Spirit may we know your love for us. By the truth of your Word may we be set free of all that binds us. By the grace of your welcome may we be lifted up as your people, in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

There is this modern parable that is making its rounds on social media over the past couple of months. I call it a "modern parable" because I can't seem to find the source for it other than social media, and also even Google called it that. So to you who created this story because chances are you're still alive and maybe even watching this: thanks.

Anyway, the parable is about this monk who asks his students, "If you're carrying a cup of coffee and someone bumps into you, why did you spill your coffee?" And all the students reply that they spilled the coffee because someone bumped into them. And then the monk says, "no, you spilled coffee because that's what you were holding in your cup. If you had water in your cup, then you would have spilled water." And the monk explains, whenever you get bumped in life, and you *will* get bumped in life, whatever you're carrying is what will spill out. So if you're holding onto fear, jealousy, anger, greed, then that's what's going to spill out. But if you're carrying love, compassion, kindness, empathy, then that's what's going to spill out. So every morning you should pause and think to yourself, "what am I carrying in my cup today?"

Profound, huh? While we can poke holes in the logic of it and make excuses for ourselves and maybe others, the truth of the matter is that we are all carrying something or a bunch of different somethings in our cups. And while we might not always know what they are, they will rise to the surface when the

going gets tough and spill out onto world, onto others, and onto our nice new clothes. Isn't that always the case? Sheesh.

But I don't share this parable to shame anyone, but to invite you all into reflection of ourselves and why what keeps spilling out keeps spilling out. Whether it be anger, frustration, or a touch of road rage, I know that sometimes we can't help but to carry what we carry. Sometimes we don't have the means or ability to let go of the things we don't want to carry anymore. Sometimes what we carry isn't a choice, but a burden. But maybe the first step in healing is to know what we need to heal from. And according to the GI Joe cartoons I watched as a kid, knowing is half the battle.

And so all this made me think about Naaman in our first reading for today, and how he's spilling out all over the place. His emotions and reactions are telling of what he's holding in his cup. It doesn't even seem like he was bumped or anything, rather he was invited to be healed. And instead of being grateful for the offer, he goes and tears his clothes. You know how much anguish you have to be in and how insulted you have to feel to tear your own clothes?

But of course, the "bump" that made Naaman spill all his pretentious self righteousness out onto his people came when he, this mighty warrior and great man with high favour falls with a skin disease. Like, we don't know what kind of skin disease, it could have been measles or chicken pox or eczema or something, but I'm pretty sure it's not leprosy as we understand it, as he wasn't quarantined or anything. But still the disease was bad enough that it put a real chip on his shoulder. Or real foul emotions in his cup, as it were.

Because in the face of grace, Naaman reacted with suspicion. When shown promise, he was skeptical and didn't want to believe. When offered healing, he scoffed and pretty much said he can take care of himself.

Yeah, that guy was carrying a lot in his cup.

And I'm not sure I can blame him. Life is difficult, and we are often thrown these curveballs that really put us in a bind. We don't always find the support and healing that we need and we might be left stranded and alone with only our wits to save us. So we sometimes could have that bitterness in our cups and in our hearts, just as Naaman had in his.

And I'm sure the lepers in our gospel lesson would have as well. They were treated the way lepers were required to be treated according to the law of the time, and so they likely felt that pain of being dealt a bad hand, that hurt of being outcast and isolated from your community, and that loneliness of being unwelcomed. Although they didn't react in the same way that Naaman did and we don't know exactly what they were carrying in their hearts, we could imagine that they weren't exactly the epitome of joy and happiness that we all strive to be.

We know the story. Jesus wanders by, they call out for help, and Jesus tells them to show themselves to the priests. And while they're on their way, they're healed and their skin cleared. But just one of them comes back to thank Jesus. The Samaritan one, no less.

And often we hear this story, we're told that we should be like the Samaritan leper in having proper manners and say "thank you" when we're given something. But I think it's more than that. I mean, the text is clear that he was a Samaritan, and I don't think I need to remind anyone of how much the Samaritans were hated on and racially profiled by the Jews as the absolute worst type of people, but I will anyways. I just did.

So as much as the other 9 lepers probably had that bitterness and "woe is me" attitude held tightly in their cups, this guy had more reason to do so. He had more ammo for his "me against the world" gun. He had more instances and life lessons that taught him how he just isn't good enough, loveable enough,

or welcome enough to ever be more than just an outcasted leper. He had all the more reason, but he still came back and gave thanks.

And I think this is where the lesson is, and not just the “be more thankful especially on Thanksgiving Sunday” kind of thing. But Jesus’ words to this healed leper is where the truth lies, “your faith has made you well” or “clean” or “whole”, depending on your translation. But in the Greek it’s “healed you.”

His faith healed him? I thought it was Jesus. I mean the others who walked away were healed too, but they didn’t show the same levels of faith. So what I think Jesus meant wasn’t so much about the leprosy has left them, but rather, his faith has healed him from what the world told him he is. His faith has cured him from the curse of bitterness and skepticism. His faith has taken his cup, emptied out the burdens, the loneliness, the sheer unworthiness that he was made to believe about himself, and filled it with gratitude, love, and a sense of purpose as a child of God.

This doesn’t mean that there won’t be bad things that will happen in our lives, they for sure will continue to happen. This doesn’t mean that we can’t feel angry at the state of the world or at others who have harmed us, I’m sure that will happen as well. This doesn’t even mean that we can and should turn a blind eye to the ways evil has run rampant. But what it does mean is that even in those bad times, we can dispel the bitterness from filling our cups. Even when times are rough and difficult, we can see God with us, holding us, and strengthening us to endure. Even when life is so impossible and we just can’t anymore, we can trust and believe that our faith will heal us.

Today is Thanksgiving Sunday. It’s a day that reminds us a lot about our country and who we are as residents of it. And as you could imagine, this day isn’t a celebration for all people. For some, this day is a reminder of a horrific past. And with all of these mixed emotions surrounding this day, we might wonder how we should feel. But I think above all, no matter what side of that line you land on, we can look to God and be reminded that no matter what the world tells us, we are loved. No matter how we might feel excluded, we belong. And no matter how we are treated by others, we needn’t carry the burden of bitterness but can be liberated by God’s grace to have our cups filled with joy, peace, and blessing.

So in this season after Pentecost, may we see how God continues hold and bless us in ways that we cannot imagine, and fill our cups with good things, that when we face the difficulties of life, we may continue to spill out God’s love and grace into the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Oh, Sing to the Lord (#822)

#### **CREED**

With all the graciously healed, 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**

Led into thanksgiving and joy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, “Lord, in your enduring mercy,” and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. Lord, in your enduring mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, we give thanks to you with our whole hearts as you join us together as one. Instill in us an appreciative attitude, and may our eyes be fixed on you and all that you do. Lord, in your enduring mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, your works are great and righteous, and your deeds are full of majesty and splendor. May our ministry and service reflect your wonders that your gracious compassion be seen and felt by all. We remember 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 First Lutheran Church in Vancouver and their interim pastor Dave Lefsrud; and for all the Lutheran campus ministries and chaplains across the country. Lord, in your enduring mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, you made a covenant with us as your people and you have fulfilled it with the wonders of your creation. May our stewardship of all that you have entrusted to us be pleasing to you, and may all who dwell on this planet appreciate its beauty and resources. Lord, in your enduring mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, the power of your works and justice run across the lands of the nations. Give wisdom to all world leaders and politicians, that all people of influence might lead with graciousness and compassion. We especially pray for the continued support of those who we’ve sponsored to enter into our country: Abraham Barhane; Solyana Amanuel; Filimon Abraha; as well as for those who have not yet arrived: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Meri Gabramikael. Lord, in your enduring mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, your equitable love redeems us and stands fast forever, and we rest in your healing hand truth. Be with all among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that your blessings continue to bring joy to all our lives. We pray especially for Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Beulah; Bev and family; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Pastor Kristen; Laura; Kandie; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Hwee Yang; Kelly; Betty; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...

Lord, in your enduring mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord, your covenant of redemption endures forever and you grant us the wisdom to understand it, joining us with all the saints to praise your name eternally. Continue to remind us of the lives of the faithful, that they may always be examples for us as we live together in community. Lord, in your enduring mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting 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**

### **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 places give thanks and praise to you, O God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who brings to us healing and peace and lifts us up to join with 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. 190)**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Majestic Lord our God, we praise you for all that you have done: in saving us with your redemptive grace, in welcoming us with your everlasting mercy, and in healing us with your steadfast love. Instill in our hearts the truth of the good news you bring, that we might be changed to see the world through your eyes of compassion and justice, led by the heart of Jesus our Lord.

Who, on the night of his betrayal, sat with his friends for a meal where he took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and shared it with them saying, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And then after they ate, he took the cup, gave thanks, and 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 in this food and cup that we can know healing and peace, together declaring the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Be present at this table, O Lord. Bless this food. Bring your Spirit among us, that through your enduring grace, your love may be revealed in all that we do, all that we are, and all that we hope for and believe. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, as one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered to live together in community, 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 blessing us with love.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** Lamb of God (p. 191)

Now Thank We All Our God (#840)

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (#843)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God, we give you thanks for again feeding and nourishing us with this heavenly food, made possible by your Word and truth. Strengthen us by your grace, that we might serve you and neighbour with thankful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

May the Creator God watch over us and all nations,  
Christ God restore us, body and soul,  
Counsellor God lead us into faithfulness and joy, moving us into thanksgiving, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** We Are Marching in the Light (#866)

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, practice gratitude and faith.  
**Thanks be to God.**