



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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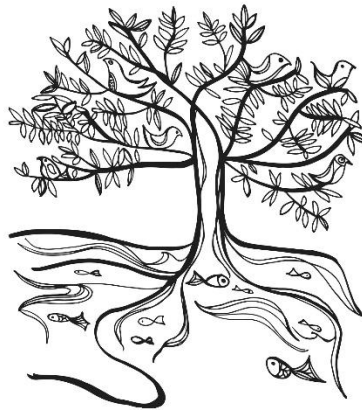
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All Saints Sunday

November 2, 2025

ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest.” In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today’s gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior’s body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God’s glory.

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 AND REMEMBRANCE OF ALL SAINTS

We gather together this day as an assembly of the faithful to sing to our Lord a new song, to rejoice in our maker, to be joyful in the God who rules over us. And so we sing and dance for God's rule isn't one of harshness or fear, but of rejoicing in the grace and mercy given to all. Let our praise be in our hearts, remembering always the glory of our Lord that brings us here and includes us in this eternal family and body of Christ. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

And as we praise this benevolent and loving God, we remember how we are all lifted up and brought into an ageless communion of saints. We give thanks for the forgiveness, redemption, and salvation that reminds us that even death does not have the last word on God's love and grace. And so as we light candles to represent those that we've loved and lost, may we see and feel their presence with us in worship, continuing in our community, and always in our lives. May we be strengthened by this promise, encouraged by our unbreaking connection with all the saints and God, and be at peace in knowing that our tears are wiped away by the unending blessing of salvation and life, now and always. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: For All the Saints (#422)

GREETING

May the everlasting grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal love of God, the peace and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you call us as your people to be joined into one beloved community, where you teach us the way of peace through our lives together as we are filled with visions of your eternal reign. May your love move us into celebration with all the saints as the power and love of Christ is poured into our hearts, by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

A reading from Daniel.

The book of Daniel was written in the second century BCE, when the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes was severely persecuting the Jews. Daniel's vision of the four beasts proclaims that human kings will come and go, but the kingdom will ultimately belong to God and to God's people.

¹ In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: ² I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³ and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

¹⁵ As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. ¹⁶ I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: ¹⁷ "As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 149

- ¹ Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song,
God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.
- ² **Let Israel rejoice in their maker;
let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.**
- ³ Let them praise their maker's name with dancing;
let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.
- ⁴ **For the LORD takes pleasure in the people
and adorns the poor with victory.**
- ⁵ Let the faithful rejoice in triumph;
let them sing for joy on their beds.
- ⁶ **Let the praises of God be in their throat
and a two-edged sword in their hand,**
- ⁷ to wreak vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
- ⁸ **to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles with links of iron,**
- ⁹ to inflict on them the judgment decreed;
this is glory for all God's faithful ones. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:11-23

A reading from Ephesians.

After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, the writer of this letter prays that they might understand the wisdom, hope, and power of God that is embodied in Jesus Christ.

¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

GOSPEL: Luke 6:20-31

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In echoes of the prophet Isaiah and Mary's song of praise, Jesus reveals surprising things about who enjoys blessing and who endures woe. He invites his disciples to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders.

²⁰ Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

²⁷ "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you;

²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

May your Spirit, O God, be poured out onto us, that the eyes of our hearts be enlightened by your Word and love, driving us to live in hope and peace, through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

**long sigh....*

So... this has been a tough week. Which came from a difficult couple of weeks for me and a few others of you from what I've heard. Which honestly came from a difficult few months for a lot more of us from what I've gathered and experiences with you. Which also came from... well let's face it... a difficult year, at least since last All Saint's Sunday and perhaps beyond.

For me at least, this week started kind of rough for various reasons. But as the week progressed I started to get a handle on things and was feeling a bit better. I had a few things going on this week so I tried hard to get a jump on my sermon. I was able to get a decent one going like Wednesday morning and I was progressing really well, and I was even looking forward to being done early and perhaps get a proper weekend to finally catch up on stuff... namely sleep.

But then about three quarters of the way into the sermon, I get the news. Our very own Raj Prasad passed away. Shock. Disbelief. Pain... so much pain.

Of course, I'm not blaming Raj or anything for the timing, but now I felt like I needed to rewrite my sermon completely. To what, I had no idea, but I wanted to better honour our friend, and this very day when we specifically remember those that we've loved and lost, than with what I had going by that point. But honestly I didn't have it in me to start over. So I finished that goofy sermon that had a guest appearance from Tharson, if you remember that guy who was actually me from a couple of sermons ago.

I finished writing and went into the editing process, but it just didn't feel right. Normally when I work remotely I have headphones on and listen to my sweet playlist of mostly 90s music, and what song pops up? "One Sweet Day" by Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men. If you don't know the song, it's about those that have gone before us, how we miss their presence, their smile, everything about them, and how they continue to shine down on us from heaven.

Ok Raj, got it, I'll rewrite the sermon.

But I think you all understand my need to say something about these feelings and emotions we have had over these difficult times, especially on this All Saints Sunday. It's times like these when we need a word of healing. We need to be reminded of the grace we've been given. We need to see God present with us and around us when we're down, distressed, and distraught like many of us are now.

I mean, we've all felt that pain of losing someone, haven't we? We've all gone through that sorrow in saying goodbye. We've all, in one way or another at some point in our lives, like maybe this past Wednesday, have dealt with the sting of death.

And I tell ya, death sucks.

It's just so final. While we have our beliefs around an afterlife, we cannot deny a real transition in our lives when someone passes. Sure, we can be very affected by it differently, especially when it's someone we don't know or maybe even don't like, but when it's someone we know or know well? Someone we respect and appreciate? Someone we love?

That's where the pain comes in. That's when we hurt. That's why we feel quite literally *broken* because that person has become such a big part of us that them no longer with us is like being incomplete, no longer whole, left with a "them-shaped" hole in our hearts and lives.

I know I know, there's a saying that goes "it's better to have loved and lost than never loved at all." Yeah yeah, that's true and all but that doesn't make the loss any easier. It doesn't really make us feel better. It doesn't take away that pain.

And maybe that's ok. Not that I wish this pain on anyone, especially not those who have recently lost loved ones, but as we just established, we **will** go through it. We **will** feel it. We **will** break under the weight of death. All of us. Individually... and together.

I think Jesus knew this. Actually I know he knew this because, you know, being God and all. But I think this time around, more than ever for me, these Beatitudes that we get out of Luke truly speak to that.

I mean, the ones we get out of Matthew are great and all and arguably more popular, but I've always liked Luke's more for a few reasons. On the most part they're pretty much the same except Matthew has Jesus preaching from a mount, which roughly translates to be a slight hill. Matthew lists pretty much the same "blessed are those's" as Luke, but has a few more and goes into a bit more detail. And Matthew's take on Jesus' sermon is more about proper and moral conduct in community and relationship.

Luke, however, has a sermon from Jesus that talks a lot more about the complex nature of individuals, how we all don't fit the same shoes, we can't be put in the same box. In Luke, the Beatitudes are paired with a list of woes, which seem to be the anti-blessings. And in Luke, Jesus doesn't preach down from an elevated position at the people, but rather Jesus walks onto a plain, level ground, where he can be eye-to-eye and face-to-face with his listeners... as *equals*.

Not equals in that all of those who were there were also the Saviour and Messiah of the world, but in that they were equally human, equally susceptible to the blessings and woes that he was describing, and ultimately equally subject to death.

See this is the human experience. These are just the ups and downs that life brings. We face these blessings and woes and woes and blessings that litter our limited time on this planet, and we go through it all *together*. As equals.

Because we are not alone in our pain, nor are we alone in our strength. We are not alone in our brokenness, nor are we alone in our wholeness. We are not alone in our losses, nor are we alone throughout all of life.

Not just with those physically here with us in our community or virtually online, but the whole host of saints of all times and places that live on in us through the examples they've set, the lessons they've taught, and the legacy they leave in our hearts. While many of them aren't with us, they continue to be with us. Because we are all connected by this human experience, through our struggles and woes, through our joys and blessings.

If these candles up here are any indication whatsoever, we also see that our love for these people didn't end with them. But rather it carries on even after they're gone. And that is what keeps them alive, keeps them in our hearts, and keeps them with us in our memories and in who we are. So you see, death *isn't* final. It doesn't have the last say. It's a transition, yes, but we, they, our relationship and community continues on with each generation for all time.

This is the gift of All Saints Day, that we be reminded that while we all have lost, we also all have love. While we all break, we also all will be made whole. While we all face death, we all are given the life that truly is life by the God who gathers us and joins us together in the eternal arms of welcome and relationship. And while some of these wounds are still fresh, while we continue to miss those that have gone before us, while we feel that pain and loss, we can be filled with the peace in knowing that even in suffering there is healing, even in loneliness there is community, even in woe there is blessing.

So then on this All Saints Sunday, as we bask in the glow of these candles that represent how our congregation is and continues to be, may we always remember, honour, and lift up the contributions of these folk in our lives, in our hearts, and in who we are, that we may see how they live on in all they are and all they were and all they will always be for us, around us, and throughout the world. All thanks and praise be to God for the presence of all these saints that we continue to love, for the saints here in this community, for all the saints around the world of God's own redeeming who are declared as beloved. Peace be with you all. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Shall We Gather at the River (#423)

CREED

Together with all the saints of all times and places, 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 into ministry with all the saints of this life and the next, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, "by your steadfast grace and mercy, O God," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Holy God, we sing to you a new song, for you are present here with us in this assembly and always. Remind us of your unending promises of grace and mercy, and may we live boldly in your love. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Holy God, we rejoice in triumph and sing for joy at your name, for you are faithful in all your ways and you equip us for ministry and service. 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 Lutheran Church of the Cross in Victoria and their pastor Lydon Sayers; and for all the prison ministries and their chaplains throughout this country. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we praise your name with dancing and singing, for you are our maker and creator. We give thanks for all that you've entrusted to us with this planet, and we lean on your strength and wisdom in our care for it. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we find joy in you, our ruler, for you adorn the poor with victory. May the leaders of the world and people of power draw wisdom from your gracious justice, that the goal of all governments and politicians be to bring out peace and harmony throughout the world. We pray also 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 Meri Gabramikael. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, your praises are on our throat, as you protect us from the evils that come our way. Help us to always trust in your love and blessing, that even in times of illness, mourning, and loneliness we may see your hand working in and around us. 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; Tracy, Jacob, and Joshua; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time... By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, all your faithful ones that we remember today have joined you in your glory and live on continually in our hearts. May we never forget them and their examples of faith, that we may be strengthened and blessed by all that you have done. By your steadfast grace and mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal and everlasting love and grace, 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 in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who, by the witness of your saints, shows us the hope of our calling and strengthens us to run the race set before us that we might delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with the witness of the saints, with the choirs of angels, the hosts of heaven, and the whole church on earth, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O Lord, to you we sing a new song as you reside among us, the assembly of your faithful. We rejoice in you, our maker and ruler, and we dance and sing at the sound of your name. For it is your good pleasure to grant to us the victory over sin and you save us from the finality of the grave through the work of your Son Jesus Christ, who came to us as one of us, reaching out to us and teaching us your ways of grace and love.

For on the night that he was betrayed, your Son 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."

So it is in this bread and cup that we see how we are provided for and protected, given God's grace and glory, and brought into faith and forgiveness, even as we declare this mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Bless this food, O Lord, as you continually remind us of our connection to you and each other of all times and places, through your Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Joined with all the saints, 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 timeless and eternal love.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (p. 191)
Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table (ACS #977)
For All Your Saints, O Lord (#427)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our creator, everything good comes from you and we see that especially in this bread and cup. Be with us as go from here, strengthening for your work and service to all who are in need, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

May God grant you the wisdom in believing,
Christ our Lord strengthen you to live in hope,
and the power of the Holy Spirit reveal to you the unending blessing and community in + love,
grace, and peace.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to love, bless, and pray for all the saints.
Thanks be to God.