



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

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**Passion/ Palm Sunday**  
**March 29, 2026**  
**ELW Holy Communion, Setting Three**

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

*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 hə́nqəmíḥəm̓ (Musqueam) and Słkwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

## GATHERING

### **ACCLAMATION** (p. 256)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **BLESSING OF PALMS**

We praise you, O God,  
for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Today he entered the holy city in triumph  
and was proclaimed messiah and king  
by those who spread garments and branches along his way.  
Bless these branches and those who carry them.  
Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross,  
so that, joined to his death and resurrection,  
we enter into life with you;  
through the same Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**PROCESSION:** All Glory, Laud, and Honor (#344)

Let us go forth in peace,  
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (p. 257)

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

A reading from Isaiah.

*The servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*

- <sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me  
a trained tongue,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens,  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I did not turn backward.
- <sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
- <sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand in court together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.
- <sup>9a</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16**

- <sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
- <sup>10</sup> **For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
- <sup>11</sup> I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- <sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.**
- <sup>13</sup> For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
- <sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.  
I have said, "You are my God.**
- <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
- <sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love."**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11**

A reading from Philippians.

*Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.*

- <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 142)

### GOSPEL: Matthew 27:11-54

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In fulfillment of scripture and obedience to God's will, Jesus goes to the cross so that a new covenant in his blood may bring forgiveness of sins. Even the soldiers who crucify him recognize him to be the Son of God.*

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" <sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup> Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup> So he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

<sup>38</sup> Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

<sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down

from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.' " <sup>44</sup> The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>47</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." <sup>48</sup> At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup> Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. <sup>53</sup> After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

Let your Word, O God, break open our hearts this day by the power of your Spirit, that we may enter into this coming Holy Week with the same mind that is in Christ Jesus, with whom we pray. Amen.

So I guess cherry blossom season here in the Lower Mainland is in full bloom. This is a favourite time of year for many Vancouverites and otherwise, as our fair city gets its glow up with the pinkish white leaves that line the streets for just a couple weeks of the year. And I'll admit, it is pretty easy on the eyes and it's a surefire tell that spring is here and that warmer and brighter days are on their way. So in general, it's a pretty happy time of the year for those who love summer, a demographic that I am very much a part of.

But at the same time, this season for me is also not all that great, because another demographic that I'm a part of is the folk who love clean and tidy cars. If you ever lived in a neighbourhood that had these cherry blossom trees or worked on a street that was lined with them or had to ever found yourself in the unfortunate circumstance where you had to park under one of them for any period of time... then you know exactly what I'm talking about.

Those pretty pink petal things have to go somewhere when they drop off the tree. And they're like sand at the beach, they just get everywhere, and they stay there. Especially if it's wet out. There is no escaping it. Even if you don't live or work or have to park by these trees, I'm sure you'll find yourself driving behind a car that does or had to, and some of that surplus cherry blossom blessing will blow off their car will inevitably land on yours. And because they're so thin and light, the wind can pick them up and move them like a whole city block. So parking at the other end of our lot here at the church, away from the sidewalk and avoiding those trees, won't make much of a difference as I'm still going to find one or two or 358 of these suckers on my otherwise pretty clean car.

Sigh, it's a tough life, this Vancouver life.

So while I do get a bit excited when I see that first cherry blossom on the trees as it is the sign for me that summer is coming, I also cringe a little inside as I know I'll need to spend more time cleaning off wet leaves, picking off the dry ones, and feeling embarrassed that my car isn't as spic and span as I would normally like it to be. It's kind of bittersweet.

Maybe you're not like me in this regard and you're just 100% on team cherry blossom and you take picture after picturesque picture and have post after instagrammable post. There's nothing wrong with that. Or maybe you're on the extreme opposite and you can't stand the mess these botanical nuisances leave in our yards, on our paths, and on the soles of our shoes. So even if you don't share my bittersweet sentiment specifically toward this particular time of year, perhaps you still know what I mean in different areas of life. Different areas that present a dichotomy of joy and sorrow, situations that are both happy and sad, or moments that are both up and down.

Or even, maybe a Sunday of the church year that starts full of life but moves very quickly to a death. Where shouts of "Hosanna" transform into shouts of "crucify him." Where welcome, honour, and love turn on a dime into exile, curses, and hatred.

Bittersweet.

So it's a no wonder that I more often than not struggle with this day. It's a no wonder that I usually have a hard time making sense of the dichotomy of this mix of Palm/Passion Sunday. It's a no wonder that this is the exact subject of my sermons for this exact day like 90% of the time.

But as I again struggled with this day this time around, one thing stood out to me that never did before, not that I remember at least. Usually I focus on the Passion Narrative and almost flat out ignore the Triumphal Entry. I'll acknowledge the dichotomy but not dwell on it. I'd scratch my head about putting these two very separate events and themes together in this one problematic day.

What I noticed this time, was that in the first gospel reading we see the crowds, in the hustle and bustle of Jesus entering the city surrounded by the fanfare and welcome, answering the question of "who is this" by proclaiming that Jesus is a prophet.

Jesus, in his humble entry on a humble animal from the more humble door into the city, entered as a prophet. Jesus brought the message of humility, of compassion, and of salvation for all. But then compare that with the second gospel reading, which in this shortened version that was selected for today ends with a centurion also proclaiming a truth about Jesus, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

This man, beaten, humiliated, and killed, was not just a prophet, but a king. In his being belittled, insulted, and spat at, he was given the name above all names. In the utter scorn from the very people he came to save, it was revealed to all that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

So what does all of this have to do with cherry blossoms? To be honest, I had a hard time putting this sermon together. Not only was this past week super busy with it being week 2 of spring break for our kids among other things, but I also found out that a dear member of our congregation is going through yet another significant bout of hardship. And I'm not blaming

anyone as this is of course no one's fault, but I couldn't continue on with my sermon as I had planned.

Because... what the heck, God? What are you thinking? Why the unnecessary hurt, the uncalled for pain, the very much unwanted brokenness? Why do you forsake us? It almost feels like the cries of "crucify him" isn't just for Jesus from those who consider themselves their enemies, but also for us, from God, who claims to be our Saviour.

We don't deserve this, do we? We shouldn't be put through the ringer and face all this turmoil, should we? Can't we ever be protected from all these bad seasons of our lives?

Maybe that's the thing, throughout our lives we go through many different seasons. Some good, many bad, and then there are those that might be seen as a bit of both. And today reminds me that God is seen in them all. We might not see it right away. Our eyes might be covered momentarily by our anger and frustration with our situations. We might want to blame something or someone just to alleviate this pain.

But if today tells us anything about this crazy, wild, tumultuous life, is that God is with us. If the season of Lent that leads to Easter reminds us of anything in the ups and downs of life, is that God is with us. In the dichotomy of these stories and themes we get for this day, we can rest assured that God is with us.

In the beauty of nature. In the frustration of inconvenience. In all of life and even in death. God is with us.

In the moments of calm serenity. In the times of hectic busyness. In the weird in between that doesn't make any sense at all. God is with us.

In the welcome and prayerful rejoice of Palm Sunday. In the sorrow and shame of the Sunday of the Passion. In the brightest and darkest times of life. God is with us.

God is with us in the blessings and the woes, in the high points and the low points, in the times of plenty and in the times of want, God remains with us and reminds us that even through it all we are called by name to be God's people. Not to never face hardship but to know that even in the face of it, God continues to hold us, lift us up, and bring us into the everlasting story of grace, hope, and love.

Again this won't take away all the pain, but it does remind us that even in life's surprising plot twists, we can rest assured and find confidence in the secure promise that through it all, we will remain as God's children.

In this upcoming Holy Week that will lead us to the glorious resurrection of our Lord, may we see God's presence with us, feel God's hand holding us, and know God's love saving us, in all that we do and in all that we are. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** When Pain of the World Surrounds Us (#704)

## **CREED (p. 105)**

Together with all those redeemed by God's love, 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 prayer and humble service, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, "Lord, in your redeeming mercy," and you are invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. Lord, in your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you are with us and your mercy is great and we are shown the boundlessness of your love. May your grace be reflected by our lives and your name be praised. Lord, in your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you know our troubles and sorrows, and you lift us up with a hand of grace. Strengthen us with your love, that we be able to faithfully proclaim your healing presence to all the world. 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 leaders, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular, we pray for Dunbar Lutheran Church in Vancouver and their pastor Elina Singh; and for our BC Synod staff and Synod Council. Lord, in your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you lift our spirits with the beauty of your creation and you bring us joy with all that you have made. Help us to always remember and cherish all that you have provided, and may we always lean and learn from your strength and generosity. Lord, in your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, the nations are riddled with suspicion and distrust, and often assert power with unnecessary violence. Continue to move all world leaders and countries toward true peace,

that we might one day live in harmony as a human race. We also 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: Maেকে Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Meri Gabramikael. Lord, in your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, we put our trust in you and have faith that we are held in your hand. Be with all among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that your love be apparent in all our lives. Especially we pray for Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Greg and Aikiko; Bev and family; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Pastor Kristen; Pastor Carol; Laura; Kandie; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Kelly; Betty; Ngan Kew (nan CUE); Matt; Patty; Sarasawathi (SAR-ah-sa-WAH-tee); and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...  
Lord, in your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, your face shines on us as you save us with your steadfast love, and you welcome us into community with you and all the saints. May the lives of faith from the past always be inspirational to us, that your name be proclaimed in all that we do. Lord, in your redeeming mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your saving grace shown to us on the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **PEACE** (p. 143)

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 Saviour Jesus Christ;  
who calls us out of our despair and lifts us up into your light, love, and life,  
and joins us with all the choirs of angels,  
the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
to praise your name with this unending hymn:

#### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (p. 144)

#### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy and almighty God, you bless us and keep us even in our most difficult times. You come to us in our despair and you show us a love that we cannot comprehend, and then in the death of

your Son Jesus, you further revealed to us just how powerful your love and grace are as you forgive and save and welcome us to live with you and all the saints as your people.

For on the night that he was betrayed, your Son Jesus sat with his friends for a final meal together, and he took the bread, gave thanks, broke and shared it and 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 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 bread and cup that we are joined together as God's people, as a church, as human beings saved and redeemed by love, even as we together proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

So it is to you, O merciful God, that all honour and glory belong, through our praises, our work, and our very lives, as you bless us and prepare us to eat this meal, to see your face, and to feel your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (p. 145)

Gathered together in grace and 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 joining us together in love and forgiveness.

**Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** Lamb of God (p. 146)

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us (#707)

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (#708)

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God, in your great mercy and grace you have fed us with your truth and nourished us with your blessing, empowering us to be your people in the world. As we continue in our journey as witnesses of the new life found in you, may we be faithful in word and deed as we serve as the vessels of your gospel, through Jesus Christ our Crucified Lord.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

God, whose presence is always with us, bless you and keep you,  
God, whose wisdom leads and guides us, shine on you and be gracious unto you,  
God, whose companionship reveals love to us, look upon you with favour and give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (#712)

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, share in the mind of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**