



**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)



**Easter Sunday  
April 5, 2026  
Now the Feast and Celebration  
Hymnal Supplement (1991)**

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

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

## GATHERING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### GATHERING HYMN AND EASTER PROCLAMATION

#### *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (#365) verse 1*

Behold the victory of our God:

Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Sin and death shall reign no more.

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Let this place resound with joy!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

#### *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (#365) verse 2*

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Celebrate and sound the trumpet of salvation,  
for God is victorious!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

#### *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (#365) verse 3*

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,  
radiant in the brightness of your king!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Christ has conquered death and stripped it of its power!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

#### *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (#365) verse 4*

### GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God that resurrects, and the communion of the Holy Spirit that welcomes us into the resurrection life be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

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

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and merciful God, your presence in the world gives us strength. Your Word of truth and righteousness gives us wisdom. And the resurrection of your Son Jesus reveals the salvation into which you graciously welcome us all. May the empty tomb increase our faith and move us to live in hope, community, and peace, through Jesus Christ our risen Saviour. **Amen.**

### **WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:1-6**

A reading from Jeremiah.

*God's final word is always "Yes." Because God's love is everlasting, God always remains faithful. Ancient Israel is assured that it will be rebuilt and have plentiful crops. The people of God too will ultimately be reunited.*

<sup>1</sup> At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword  
found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

<sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines  
and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

<sup>5</sup> Again you shall plant vineyards  
on the mountains of Samaria;  
the planters shall plant  
and shall enjoy the fruit.

<sup>6</sup> For there shall be a day when sentinels will call  
in the hill country of Ephraim:  
"Come, let us go up to Zion,  
to the LORD our God."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel now declare,  
"God's mercy endures forever."**

- <sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.
- <sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:  
“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**
- <sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”
- <sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.**
- <sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.
- <sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**
- <sup>20</sup> “This is the gate of the LORD;  
here the righteous may enter.”
- <sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**
- <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- <sup>23</sup> **By the LORD has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- <sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## **SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43**

A reading from Acts.

*Peter’s sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, “receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

Be with us, O God, as we navigate this world and remind us of the power of your love seen in the resurrection, that fills us with faith, hope, and peace, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

“There is nothing to fear but fear itself.” Or something like that.

I’m sure you’re all familiar with this saying or its many variations. You’ve probably heard it at least once or twice or likely more throughout your personal adventures. You might have even used it yourself when trying to reassure and comfort someone who had found themselves in fear of something apparently other than fear. And I’m not sure what the exact etymology of the saying is, as Google has a few different theories, but really? What do you mean there’s nothing to fear? Real life tells us that there’s a lot to fear.

Things like heights, the dark, or spiders just to name a few. Then there are things like serious illness, abandonment, or abuse. More broadly speaking, I think all of us have this unspoken fear of the unknown, the uncontrollable future, or breaking your perpetual streak in whatever game you’re playing on your phone or online \*cough Wordle. Personally, I’m most afraid of the next Avengers movie being a flop, there’s so much hype around it and I’m honestly really looking forward to seeing it on opening night, so I’d be much disappointed if it doesn’t blow me away...

Of course, I have other fears as well, the Avengers thing is just my greatest fear at this exact moment, the others are a bit more superficial. Things like a fear that no one is listening to me, or a fear of going unrecognized for my major accomplishments, or a fear of just not being as cool I tell myself I am in my own head. And of course, like many others, I do have some deeper seated fears that revolve around loss, brokenness, and failure.

So really, the world does give us a lot to be afraid of, even if we admit to it or not. As brave as we try to be, each and every one of us have some kinds of fears. Be it superficial or deeper than that, there is something out there that scares the snot out of us, and no amounts of sayings, reassurances, and/or sermons would ever change that. So why am I still talking?

Well, for one, I'm also afraid of job security, so I should at least do my job at bare minimum. But it's also Easter Sunday, one of the biggest Sundays of the church year and representative of the foundation of our faith and identity as God's people in the world. So it wouldn't really be an Easter Sunday without some kind of sermon. One that inspires, empowers, and invigorates our very core. No pressure or anything... talk about fears.

But also on this Easter Sunday, in the gospel reading we get for this Lectionary year, in this story of Jesus' life, death, and apparent resurrection according to Matthew, we get a lot of talk about fear.

That tracks. I mean if we were the characters in this story from this period of time, especially the Israelites, we'd have a lot of fears as well. I mean the world as we know it was in turmoil. Our chosen leaders who brought promise and hope kept getting cancelled or even executed by the systems in place. Any attempt at any kind of progress was slammed into the wall of oppression.

Sounds kind of familiar, doesn't it?

Not in a way that our teacher, mentor, and friend had just been proven by a court of law to be a fraud. Not just because that verdict came with a death penalty. And that doesn't sound familiar because we need to watch our backs just by our association with said teach. But because our world today tells us to be afraid as well. Afraid of the consequence of progressing forward from our archaic pasts. Afraid of calling out the wrongs and evils that keep popping up around us. Afraid of standing up for what is right, just, and true.

It seems to me that the world is divided because of these fears. Our communities are split because we can't agree on which fear should be listened and given into. Families are torn apart because fear creeps in and supersedes logic, loyalty, and even love.

You know what I mean, don't you? We live in a strange time when we are more connected than ever, but also the most isolated. We have all the modern conveniences we can think of, yet we don't have time for anything. We live in one of the safest places in the world, yet we are still fearful of what has happened, what can happen, and even what very likely won't ever happen.

We see things on the news and the horrors around the world and we internalize them and think that is something that must be possible to happen to us. We read things online around health and relationships that we identify with and then project them onto ourselves and our loved ones. It's almost like we actively find reasons to fear.

Look at the readings and stories that we've had throughout the season of Lent. It starts with Ash Wednesday and the fear of not looking faithful enough. Then in the following Sundays we have Jesus tempted by the fear of not being enough, Nicodemus afraid of not understanding, the woman at the well afraid of what others think of her, the blind man's parents afraid of the

authorities, and of course everyone at Lazarus' tomb afraid of death. Then last week on Palm/Passion Sunday, we had people afraid of change, religious leader afraid of being wrong, and Pilate afraid of losing face and so gave Jesus up to be crucified.

That is a lot of fear throughout a single season. A lot of fear that caused people to do things that they normally wouldn't do. A lot of fear that perhaps speaks to us and sheds light on our motivations, our rationales, and our actions.

But that was Lent, ancient history. As I said, today is Easter. And while it was fear that controlled us, determined our actions, and led us to this day, what we hear on this Easter Sunday is "Do not be afraid". That's what the angels said to the women at the tomb, that's what Jesus told them in the garden, that is what the resurrection empowers us to do.

Mind you, they weren't told "don't have fears," as the Mary's literally left the tomb right after with fear in them. But "do not be afraid" is different. You can have fear, but not afraid at the same time. Like you can have concern, but remain confident in who you are and who you are created to be. You can have worries and not let that overshadow your worthiness. You can be scared, but that doesn't have to sway you to believe that you are anything less than a beloved child of God.

Because even in their fears, the women at the tomb became the first witnesses and proclaimers of the resurrection. Even in their fears, they stood up to societal norms of the day and did what was right. Even in their fears, they saw Jesus.

In the garden. In Galilee. In each other and their community. They went back into the world and into life, and the risen Christ was made apparent. Looking for him or not, and the resurrected Son of God, Prince of Peace, the Messiah and Saviour of us all, was surprisingly seen in and around their lives, not taking away their fears per se, but empowering them to be not afraid and controlled by those fears.

See this is the message of Easter and the resurrection. This is the theme that carries us through our lives in this world. This is the basis of our faith and the gospel that we proclaim. That even in fear we are made to be bold. Even in the unbelievable we can believe. Even in death there is life.

Not just a recusation of what once was, but a revitalisation of what could be. A place where the hurts and pains of life have not necessarily been abolished, but where joy can be found regardless of them. A place where love is known not just as a fleeting feeling, but as a long-standing relationship that we have with God and our community. A place where, in spite of what is happening in the world and in our lives, we can truly know the peace that surpasses understanding... a peace that reminds us and reassures us and resurrects us with Christ into the knowledge that we are and always will be beloved.

And nothing, not evil, not fears, not even death can take that away or change it.

So in this Easter season and beyond, may each and every one of us be confident in our position and identity as God's people, that in spite of our fears we might be strong in our faith, bold in our service, and upright in our proclamation that Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, alleluia. Thanks be to God. Amen.

## HYMN OF THE DAY Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (#367)

### CREED (HS p. 11)

Together with all brought into new life with Christ, 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

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

God of all graciousness, by the power of the resurrection you lift us up out of our guilt and shame and you call us into your community and eternal kingdom. Renew our faith and strengthen us for your service, that the proclamation of your gospel be heard and felt by all. In your boundless mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

God of all our worship and praise, by the power of the resurrection you lift us up as a body of Christ as you gather us together in service and ministry. Remind us of your call to be your people in the world, that we be able to draw strength from our faith even in the face of doubt. We remember in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those who use this building for worship, work, and play; our full communion partners: the Anglican Church of Canada and the Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops, rostered ministers, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular, we pray for First Lutheran Church in Vancouver and all that pastor and leaders that serve them; and for the Lutheran campus ministries and chaplains across this country. In your boundless mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

God of all creation, by the power of the resurrection you lift up life where we thought there could be no life, and you show us the resilience and strength of this planet and its beauty. May we continue learning about this world that we live in, that we be empower to properly and responsibly care for it. In your boundless mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

God of all justice, by the power of the resurrection you lift up the oppressed, the marginalized, and the suffering, and you gave them the strength to stand up against evil and tyranny. Build up in us a sense of your peace, that we all might learn to work together with all leaders, politicians, citizens, and common folk to bring forth your kingdom based on the good news of your gracious love. 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: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Meri Gabramikael. In your boundless mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

God of all healing, by the power of the resurrection you lift us up out of our ailments and frailties and bring us back into wholeness in community with you and the Spirit. Remind us of your love and peace when we are ill, that we might always rely on you for our strength. We pray especially for Kathy and family; 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... In your boundless mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

God of all eternity, by the power of the resurrection you lift us up out of our fear of death, and you remind us of how you've connected us with all the saints of every time and place. May we draw strength from the faith of the whole body of Christ, that we might see you present and working in all areas of life. In your boundless mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your amazing love and grace made apparent through the glorious resurrection of 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, O God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has been risen from the grave to show us the vastness of your love and grace, welcoming us all into your arms of redemption and salvation, giving us purpose and new life. And so, as we are joined with all the choirs of angels, the hosts of heaven, and the whole church on earth, we praise your name with this unending hymn:

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

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Yes Lord you are holy and mighty, and we bow before your greatness and mercy. You lift us up out of our guilt and you save us from our sin with a redeeming forgiveness and love. And this good news is most seen in the life and teachings of your Son Jesus, whom you sent to us as one of us, to show us the ways of your resurrecting grace.

For on the night that he was betrayed, your Son Jesus sat with his disciples for a meal, where he took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, 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 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 heavenly food that we share where we can see your loving embrace, O God, moving us to ponder this mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

So it is to you, O God, that all honour and glory belong, for in the glorious resurrection that we celebrate on this day and always, you lift us up to reside with you and all the saints of all times and places in your kingdom of love, peace, joy, and hope, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Gathered into new life by the 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 present in life, death, and resurrection.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** Lamb of God (HS p. 18)

Thine is the Glory (#376)

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright (#384)

Be Not Afraid (#388)

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God, we have been fed by your love and grace and you have revealed to us the marvels of your unending faithfulness. May the resurrection that we celebrate today reenergize and empower us to live lives of righteousness and peace, in proclamation of your love and grace, through Jesus Christ our risen Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

May God who reforms us as our Shepherd, bless you with a resurrected life,  
God who rose our Saviour from the dead, keep you in outstretched arms of love,  
God who sent the reassurance of the Spirit, grant to you the peace that surpasses all understanding, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, live the good news that Christ is risen!

**Thanks be to God, he is risen indeed! Alleluia!**