



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

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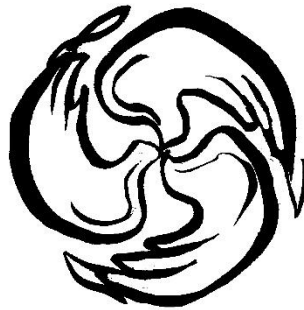
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**Holy Trinity Sunday**

**May 31, 2026**

**ACS Holy Communion, Setting 12**

Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

A warm welcome to those who are here worshipping in-person and on-line with us today! Here at Grace Lutheran we believe God is active in your life. Even you being here now is testament of God's calling and leading in your heart, which you have faithfully heeded. So we welcome you, and pray that today you will be nurtured and that the gifts that God has graciously given you will be stirred for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Grace Lutheran worships, prays, and serves on the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm̓ (Musqueam) and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) peoples.

## GATHERING

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND BLESSING OF BOOK NOOK

We gather in worship of the Lord our Lord, whose name is majestic in all the earth, whose glory is chanted above the heavens, whose fortress of truth and wisdom silences enemy and foe alike. For God's work is seen throughout all of creation: in the seas and skies, in the lands and vegetation, in all creatures great and small, and even in ourselves as we are created in God's own image and regarded by God in love as God's own children.

And so with this in mind, we give thanks for this new Little Grace Book Nook that will be unveiled later today, we give thanks for Richard whose hard work and creativity put it together, and we give thanks for the service this small structure will provide for our community and neighbourhood: in blessing us with books, in sharing with us knowledge, and in giving us a way to connect with those around us. May this little library be for us and our neighbourhood a reminder of the providence of God's grace, joining us together as a family and one body of Christ.

Then now as we worship our God for all of these gifts and blessings, let us be inspired by this love, strengthened by this mercy, and empowered by this Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**GATHERING SONG:** Come, Join the Dance of Trinity (ELW #412)

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that gathers us, the love of God that joins us, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit that shows us how to live in community be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**SONG OF PRAISE** (ACS p. 31)

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our Shepherd, Saviour, and Spirit, you are revealed to us as a mighty, creative, life-giving God, and you invite us to live in the full communion of your creation as you join us together with you and all the saints in community. Captivate us in your love, and lead us into your world where you can be seen, heard, and felt, that we might together sing to your holy name, live by your holy Word, and be empowered to serve you and each other through your Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## WORD

**FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1- 2:4a**

A reading from Genesis.

*At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.*

<sup>1</sup> When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the

waters from the waters.”<sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.<sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so.<sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.<sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so.<sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.<sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,<sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.<sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.<sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,<sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.<sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”<sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.<sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”<sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so.<sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”<sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.<sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.<sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude.<sup>2</sup> On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.<sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4a</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 8

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
- <sup>2</sup> **you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;  
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**
- <sup>3</sup> When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- <sup>4</sup> **what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,  
human beings that you should care for them?**
- <sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them little less than divine;  
with glory and honor you crown them.
- <sup>6</sup> **You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet:**
- <sup>7</sup> all flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts of the field,
- <sup>8</sup> **the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**
- <sup>9</sup> O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

*Paul closes a challenging letter to the Corinthians with an appeal to Christian fellowship grounded in the triune harmony of Christ's grace, God's love, and the Spirit's partnership.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>11</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Be restored; listen to my appeal; agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

<sup>13</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ACS p. 33)

### GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After his resurrection, Jesus summons his remaining disciples and commissions them to baptize and teach all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

<sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*by National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer*

Dear church, grace and peace to you in the name of the Triune God, Three-in-One and One-in-Three.

This day, Trinity Sunday, has been called the great hinge. Trinity Sunday stands between the two halves of the church year. The first half – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter focus on the life of Christ – and the second half, the life of the church.

While some call this day a great hinge – others call it a great pain! So much so, that deacons and pastors will go to great lengths to invite a guest preacher – even the National Bishop – to proclaim the Word on Trinity Sunday.

We all know the presenting problem: It’s the only Sunday in the church year that focuses exclusively on a doctrine of the church and, if we’re going to be perfectly honest, it’s a pretty complicated doctrine.

I’ve said for years that: 1) I don’t fully understand the Trinity, 2) I don’t expect to this side of Jesus’ return, and 3) I tend not to trust those who say they do.

And just in case we feel uneasy that we don’t really understand the Trinity let’s keep in mind that the church fought over it for a century or more.

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, Grace Professor of Leadership and Director of Contextual Formation at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, preaching on today’s text proclaimed: “The Trinity is not three separate persons or three different modes of God. The familiar language that Jesus uses at the end of Matthew’s Gospel highlights that the Trinity is relational and active, not a collection of static persons.... Generations of theologians – including St. Augustine, who attempted to describe the Trinity as ‘love, the loved object, and the lover’s love for that object’ – have attempted to explain the very nature of God in terms of what and how. Yet a doctrine, especially one that can be as technical and complicated as the Trinity, has no role in our faith unless it describes the *why*.”

It’s not the what and the how...but the why.

The early church Elders described the why – the relational and active Trinity – the Three-in-One, One-in-Three – with the word *perichoresis*, which means “dancing around.” Three distinct persons moving as one in a shared, joyful dance – a dance of celebrating difference while existing as one joy-filled community – a community of love.

This is the why of the Trinity that our world longs to have revealed. This is the good news. All are invited to join this community of love – to join the dance – where gifts are honored and

brokenness transformed, where unity and diversity exist together. This beloved community – this community of love – is our true home, our true calling, for we were created to join the beauty-making work of the triune God – we were made to dance.

Schiefelbein-Guerrero, goes on to say: “The community of love that is the Trinity mirrors the community of love that is the Church – or at least, that is how it is supposed to work. It is no accident that Jesus’ last words recorded in Matthew’s Gospel are words of the Trinity, calling his followers to baptize, teach, obey, and remember.

These are central actions of the Christian community:

- baptize and break down the barriers we put up to the beloved community;
- teach about Christ’s costly grace and the free gift of salvation;
- obey Jesus’ command to love one another as he has loved us, modeled through the humble act of foot washing;
- and remember—remember through partaking of Christ’s body and blood, remember the call of the Holy Spirit in our lives...remember the oppressed and the outcast, those who need both spiritual and physical nourishment.”

This final word from Jesus to “remember” is more than just fondly remembering – more than nostalgia. The verb means to “take hold” of something. Jesus calls those who seek to follow him – calls us – calls the ELCIC – to take hold of what he has done and taught and to go into the world.

This is what we are seeking to do together today as the ELCIC, on this Day of Action. This year marks 40 years in the life of our church! This milestone not only invites us to remember our story, but also to reflect on who we are today and how God is calling us forward as a church.

Today’s ELCIC Day of Action is an opportunity to live out that calling together – to dance – *living out God’s grace and unconditional love* - to step beyond our church walls and into our neighbourhoods, joining with others across our church in acts of – in a dance of – service, compassion, and care in Christ’s name, where all are invited into the dance.

Whether our efforts are simple or ambitious, each is a faithful expression of who we are as the body of Christ. Today this dance includes:

*Holy Trinity in Edson, Alberta who are making birthday party bags for their local food bank.*

*Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, in Halifax, Nova Scotia who are hosting a ‘Sidewalk Fiesta’ following worship which includes food, activities, and a peace flag.*

*Nazareth Lutheran in Standard, Alberta is partnering with a local group for a ‘work bee’ to care for trees in a nearby park.*

*Zion Lutheran in Weyburn, Saskatchewan is hosting a BBQ picnic, a classic car parade, delivering care cards and collecting items for the food bank.*

*Thirdspace at Martin Luther University College in Waterloo, Ontario is hosting teams at the food justice garden and student food distribution project – planting, sorting and cleaning.*

*Ascension Lutheran in Nelson, BC is hosting an open house offering mental health first aid and Naloxone training in response to the local drug crisis.*

*Trinity Lutheran in New Hamburg, Ontario is working to support homeless youth with education, laptops, and job opportunities.*

*St. Stephen's and St. Bede in Winnipeg, Manitoba is participating in a spring cleanup and sharing an ELCIC 40th Birthday cake.*

*Grace Lutheran in Wetaskiwin, Alberta is painting rocks with inspirational messages to give out in the area and plant along walking paths.*

*The National Staff and our families are gathering this afternoon at a care centre in Winnipeg to be present with residents through conversation, games, and music.*

And I could go on and on.

As we live out God's grace and unconditional love our actions hope to touch and bless others as we journey together to be a diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all and upholds life-giving relationships.

Thank you, dear church, for the many ways you already serve. I look forward to the witness we will share together today through the ELCIC Day of Action.

So, dear church, dear sisters and brothers, siblings in Christ,  
*living out God's grace and unconditional love,*

Go –  
go to your homes,  
go to your places of work,  
go to your neighbourhoods;  
go there to begin anew,  
go caring for all of creation,  
go and be God's people for the love of the world.  
And as you go – you go with Jesus' promise – take hold of it:  
Remember. I am with you.  
And dance, dear church, dance.

**Prayer:** (adapted from The Rev. Susan R. Briehl. Day 1, April 30, 2000.)

*Holy God, come among us, in the good news proclaimed, in water and Word, present in loaf and cup, and in the company of others who seek to follow Jesus.  
Send us, filled with the breath of your Holy Spirit,  
To breathe peace into fearful lives,  
To love one another as we have been loved,  
To welcome the stranger and make friends of enemies,*

*To forgive the sins that bind others to the past,  
To serve, on bended knee, all in need of care,  
To be your wounded and risen Body in the world  
And to enter with joy your in-breaking, startling future. Amen*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty (ELW #413)

### **CREED**

Together with all those joined by God's grace, 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**

Made in God's image to love and live with each other in community, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with "Lord, in your majestic mercy," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. Lord, in your majestic mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, our Lord, your name is indeed majestic in all the earth, and we bow down to your splendour. Move and inspire us always as your people in the world, and may we flourish in our relationships, community, and service. Lord, in your majestic mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, our Lord, your glory is chanted throughout the heavens and earth, and from our mouths come songs of praise. Strengthen us in our ministry and service, that we might be able to reflect your image of grace, love, and peace. 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 all our bishops, rostered ministers, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular, we pray for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Prince George and all the pastors and leaders that serve them; and our own Grace Lutheran Church here in Burnaby and our continued connection with our neighbourhood and community. Lord, in your majestic mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, our Lord, we are in awe at the works of your fingers in creating the heavens and earth and setting the moon and stars on their courses. May we show our appreciation for all that you've entrusted to us in our care for this planet, that its beauty and wonder be restored and maintained. Lord, in your majestic mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our Lord, you are mindful of us and care for us as your own children, and you watch over us with justice and peace. Bring wisdom to all world leaders, politicians, and people of influence, that we can collectively learn to live in harmony across the planet. 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, Surafiel, Nohom, and Elita Gabramikael. Lord, in your majestic mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our Lord, you have made us your people and you hear us cry out to you in our times of need. Be with those among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that your shining light of love be upon us all. Especially we pray 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; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...  
Lord, in your majestic mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our Lord, your name is majestic in all the earth. You welcome us into your kingdom and you lift us up as saints. Remind us always of the lives of faith of the past, that they might inspire our own faith as we together move into the future. Lord, in your majestic mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the faith and community that you lead us to, 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 calls us to go out into the world to follow him in our , and joins us with the choirs of angels, the hosts of heaven, and the church on earth in praising your name with this unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ACS p. 36)**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

O Lord, we give you thanks and praise for all that you have done: in creating us in your holy image of love and relationship; in saving us through your holy Word of grace; and in bringing us together as your people in your holy church of all times and places. And in the fullness of your character, we see how you provide for us throughout creation, as you cultivate among us a community that is led by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ whom you sent to us to be one of us. And by your Spirit we also see him as the example of all that is good and true.

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

Then after they ate, he took the cup, gave thanks, and 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 see how we are joined together as one just as God is one, and it draws us deeper in our proclamation of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

So it is to you, O God, Creator, Christ, and Counsellor, that we give all thanks and praise to for your work in the world, your work in our lives, and your work in this community and church of your people, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER (ACS p. 39)**

Gathered into one church under God 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's image of love and community etched in our hearts.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** Lamb of God (ACS p. 40)  
Holy God, We Praise Your Name (ELW #414)  
One Bread, One Body (ELW #496)

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God, we give you thanks for feeding us with your Word and nourishing us with your truth and joining us together as one as you are one Shepherd, Saviour, and Spirit. Be with us as we go from this place, that our proclamation of your love be faithful and seen, felt, and heard by all we meet, as you are with us until the end of the age. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

May the Creator who loves us, bless you and keep you,  
may the Christ who saves us, shine on you and be gracious onto you,  
and may the Counsellor who joins us together as one, look upon you with favour and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** Go to the World (ACS #991)

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, saved, strengthened, and sent.  
**Thanks be to God.**