



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

ACS Holy Communion, Setting 12

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

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 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 hən̓q̓əmiñəm (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) peoples.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in worship in the name of our Creator God, who waters the earth, nourishes the vegetation, and cares for all creatures great and small. For God is with us, providing for us, and fulfilling our needs in our communities, ministries, and very lives. And so we shout for joy and sing our praises to the God in heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom (ACS #1064)

GREETING

The eye-opening grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the heart-opening love of God, and the mind-opening fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE (ACS p. 31)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your mouth opened and you spoke your Word of love and peace, and creation sprang forth in abundance. Let our hearts be opened to accept your grace, that we be satisfied by your goodness and empowered by your inclusive character in the world, through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah.

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

- ¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 65:9-13

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

A reading from Romans.

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ACS p. 33)

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: O God, Whose Word Well-Planted (ACS #975)

CREED

With all of God's people gathered by the Spirit, 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 to see and recognise God's welcoming love in the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, "by your inclusive mercy, O God," and you all may respond with **hear our prayer**. By your inclusive mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, we give you thanks for the love you show us without conditions, and we are moved by your generosity and grace. Strengthen us to see the value in all people, that our work and our lives might be a testament to your nature and welcome. By your inclusive mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, your love is seen in your providence that nourishes and strengthens us to live in right relationship in our communities and churches. Remind us always of the goodness that you bring to us, and may it be reflected in our ministry, service, and interactions with others. Especially we pray for our neighbouring faith communities; those that 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 Faith Lutheran Church in Kelowna and their pastor Brian Krushel; and for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in North Vancouver and their pastor Vida Jaugelis (yow-GAY-less). By your inclusive mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you have created this earth and you water it abundantly, making it plenteous and enough to feed and provide for us all. We pray for our stewardship of this planet's resources, that all can be fed from his abundant goodness. May your hand of blessing and love and healing rest upon all that you have made. By your inclusive mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you smooth out the ridges of our rough edges and you soften our hearts with your abundant blessing. Lead and guide us in our nations and across borders, that we might learn how to live in peace. And we 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. By your inclusive mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you give and you heal abundantly, and we are clothed with the joy of your love. Be especially with those among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that your presence with all of us can be seen and felt. We pray in particular 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...

By your inclusive mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, we are the sheep of your flock and because of your eternal welcome and steadfast love, we cannot help but sing for joy with all of creation. May our connection with you and all the saints be on our minds, that we might be inspired to live faithful lives of service in your holy name. By your inclusive mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the truth and love taught to us by 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, whose love for us is given freely, and it joins us as one church on earth, praising your name with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven with this, their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ACS p. 36)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O Lord you are mighty and holy, and in your generosity, we know the goodness of your love and grace. You bring us together to live as a community in your kingdom, and you remind us that we are equal in the eyes of your mercy. And when the time was right you sent to us Jesus, who never regarded equality with you as something to be exploited, but to show us the ways your righteousness and peace by living among us as one of us.

For on the night that he was betrayed, Jesus sat with his disciples for a final meal together, 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."

And then after they ate, he took the cup, gave thanks, and passed it around the table so they could drink from it 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 just how provided for we are, as broken but healed, sinners but made to be saints, as we together recognize and proclaim the basis of our 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 all that you do in your welcome and grace, showing us our inclusion into your kingdom, your community, your family, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ACS p. 39)

Gathered together 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, our welcome and inclusion into God's love.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (ACS p. 40)

The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies (ELW #683)

Lord of Light (ELW #688)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we give you thanks for again feeding us and nourishing us with your Word and truth, including and welcoming us into your kingdom and community. Be with us as we move out into the world, that our lives reflect your light and justice and love onto all that we meet, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the Creator God bless you as you go out in joy,
the Christ God shine on you and bring you back in peace,
and the Comforter God fill you with grace and lead you into singing, now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW #726)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, filled with love and joy.

Thanks be to God.