



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

WOV Holy Communion, Setting Five: Bread of Life

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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 hən̓q̓əmiṇəm̓ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) peoples.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in worship and obedience to the decrees of the Lord. For God's Word shines into our lives and gives us understanding, guidance, and grace. And so we shout for joy and sing our praises as this Word is given freely to us, liberating us, leading us, and allowing us into God's kingdom forever, through Jesus Christ. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING HYMN: Gather Us In (ELW #532)

GREETING

The surprising grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the steadfast love of God, and the sharing fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God (WOV p. 29)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, we put our hope in your promises of a world made whole, a heavenly realm that is near in heart and close at hand, a community where all can find welcome and belonging. May our acts of courtesy and charity be transformed by your love, that they might grow abundantly and contribute to your kingdom for all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from 1 Kings.

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

- ¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- ¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**
- ¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
- ¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**
- ¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- ¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**
- ¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

A reading from Romans.

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 31)

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (ELW #533)

CREED (WOV p. 18)

With all of God's people in God's kingdom, 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, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

Led into community in God's realm, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, "God in your surprising mercy," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. God in your surprising mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, your decrees are wonderful in that they show us the ways of right relationship and community. Empower us with your love, that your grace be reflected by our lives and lived in our communities.

God, in your surprising mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, we are committed to follow you with all our hearts, in all your ways of righteousness and love. Strengthen us in our ministry, that that your wisdom and peace might shine through all that we do. We remember in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those who use this building for worship, work, and play; our partners Anglican Church of Canada and Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops, rostered ministers, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular we pray for St Paul's Lutheran Church in Maple Ridge and their pastor Erik Reedman-Parker; and for Matsqui Lutheran Church in Matsqui and all the pastors and leaders that serve them.

God in your surprising mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, in the beginning you created light, and it expanded our understanding of you and your love, shown to us through all of creation. May we reflect this love back to you through our care of this planet, and may all people learn from the relationship that you have with all that you have made.

God in your surprising mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, we long for your commandments and your love, as they are inspiring to us and guide us even in our sin and shame. May all world leaders and politicians also be inspired by this love and grace to govern wisely and fairly throughout the nations, especially among those that face war and violence. We pray also 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.

God in your surprising mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you rescue us from oppression and you heal us into wholeness. Be with those among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely that your love and grace might fill all our lives with peace and hope. Especially we pray for 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; Sarasawathi (SAR-ah-sa-WAH-tee); and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...

God in your surprising mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, let your face shine on us, your servants. For you welcome us into your kingdom and community with you and all the saints. May the lives of those that we've loved and lost inspire us in the faith, that our lives in turn can be inspiring to others as we are connected together as the one body of Christ.

God in your surprising mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal love and welcome, revealed to us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE (WOV p. 20)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

DIALOGUE (WOV p. 36)

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (WOV p. 36)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy and almighty God, we give you thanks for all that you have done, are doing, and will do to reveal to us our place in your kingdom through your surprising welcome and steadfast love. For you call us by name, provide for our needs, and fill us with your truth, grace, and love. And when the time was right, you send to us Jesus, your Son, to further our knowledge and understanding of your ways of righteousness and peace.

For on the night that he was betrayed, your Son Jesus sat with his friends for a meal, 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."

And after they ate it, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and passed it around the table for 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 his bread and cup that we see how wide and welcoming the kingdom is, grounding us together through this, 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, uniting us in community into your kingdom, living and breathing at the one body of Christ, who shines on us your grace and mercy together with your Holy Spirit, as you reign as one God throughout all the earth, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (WOV p. 25)

Together with the whole kingdom of God, 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 surprising welcome and grace.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (WOV p. 39)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (ELW #588)

For by Grace You Have Been Saved (ELW #604)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we give you thanks for continually feeding and nourishing us with your word and welcome, and blessing us with your steadfast love. Strengthen us in our lives and communities, that as we go out into the world, we might see your face in the ordinary and extraordinary places in life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the God of creation bless you and keep you,
the God of liberation shine on you and be gracious onto you,
the God of illumination look upon you with favour, and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: O Christ, Our Hope (ELW #604)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, be guided by God's wisdom and goodness.

Thanks be to God.

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