



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA**

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**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 5, 2026  
ACS Holy Communion, Setting 12**

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

*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 hən̓q̓əmiñəm̓ (Musqueam) and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) peoples.

## GATHERING

### CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the name of the Lord, who is gracious to us and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. So we bless our God with our praises, gladly speak of God's glory and power, witness to the glorious splendour of God's everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**GATHERING SONG:** Come to Me, O Weary Traveler (ACS #1017)

### GREETING

The reassuring grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the restoring love of God, and the rejuvenating fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, you call us to find rest in your presence, and relationship and community in the world. Help us to learn how to be gentle and humble of heart, that our burdens be light and our yoke easy, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from Zechariah.

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O LORD,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.  
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

**SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a**

A reading from Romans.

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

<sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ACS p. 33)**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup> "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

<sup>18</sup> "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man

came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

<sup>20</sup> Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup> "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum,

will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

"For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup> But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you."

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** There on Jesus Christ I Will Stand (ACS #1024)

## **CREED**

Together with all God's people in worship, 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 rest and rejuvenation in the arms of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with “in your liberating mercy, O God,” and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. In your liberating mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you are gracious and full of compassion, and in you we find rest. We give thanks for the community that you put us in, where we find welcome, support, and companionship. Grant to all this same sense of belonging, that we all be reminded of your love and providence. In your liberating mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. May the ministry in our congregations and communities reflect your patience with us, that we all might learn to love and forgive just as we are loved and forgiven. We lift up in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those who use this building for worship, work, and play; our partners 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 Our Global Mission Companion, the Evangelical Lutheran Church – Peru, and their President Ofelia Davila. We also pray for their other partner synods, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, and their Bishop Tracy Breashears Schultz; and LaCrosse Area Synod and their Bishop Felix Malpica. In your liberating mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you are good to all, and we can see your compassion in all the work you do in and around our lives and throughout all of creation. May our stewardship of all that you have made be pleasing to you, that this planet and its beauty be restored and maintained for the generations to come. In your liberating mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, we praise you and bless you as we recognize the glory of your kingdom and the power of your name. May all world leaders, politicians, and people of influence learn of your truth and righteousness, that we might all work together to bring out true peace among the nations. 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. In your liberating mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, your love and welcome are everlasting and your compassionate hand of healing endures throughout the ages. You are faithfully and lovingly present among all those who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, and you remind us all that we are not alone in our ailments but surrounded by the community of all the saints. 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...  
In your liberating mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you uphold us for all time, and you lift us up in communion with you and all the saints forever. May the memories of those that we’ve loved and lost remain alive in our hearts, that the faith of the past might help inspire the faith of the future. In your liberating mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the sanctuary we find in your name, 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 into community, where we are given rest from our burdens and join together with the whole church on earth, the choirs of angels and hosts of heaven in praising your name with this unending hymn:

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

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, we give you thanks for your steadfast love that knows no end and the eternal faithfulness that remains present with us for all time. We know that nothing can snatch us from your arms of grace, and we revel in the fact that we are welcomed, included, and blessed by your holy name. And through it all, you have sent to us your Son Jesus, who teaches us and leads us down your paths of righteousness and forgiveness, showing us the true depths of your mercy.

For on the night that he was betrayed, your son Jesus sat with his friends for a final meal together, where 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 then after they ate it, he 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 this heavenly food that we are reminded that we are joined together with the identity as your people, supporting one another in welcome, and living lives based on the truth of our faith which we proclaim:

**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 have done and continue to do in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Welcomed into community with each other by the Holy 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, the signs and symbols of God's grace and love.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION**

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

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (ELW #608)

Chief of Sinners Though I Be (ELW #609)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God, again you have fed and nourished us with your Word and truth and you remind us of our connection to you and each other. Strengthen us in our ministry and mission in the world, that your love and grace be reflected in our community and in all that we do, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

May the compassionate God bless you and keep you,  
the loving and gracious God shine on you with favour,  
and the God who leads us into community and peace give you gentle and humble hearts,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (ELW #611)

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, cared for and loved.

**Thanks be to God.**