



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

WOV Holy Communion, Setting Five: Bread of Life

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation 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 hən̓q̓əmiñəm̓ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) peoples.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in worship to our Lord, who is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. For God does not accuse us or deal with us according to our sin and iniquities. Rather, God holds us in a steadfast love that is as great as the heavens are high about the earth and as far as the east is from the west, and removes from us all our transgressions of the past, present, and future. And so we sing our praises to the God of compassion and mercy, through Jesus Christ. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING HYMN: God Of Tempest, God Of Whirlwind (ELW #400)

GREETING

The compassionate grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the steadfast love of God, and the merciful 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

O God, you are our source and our salvation, in love you made us, through love you have saved us, and by love you have brought us together to be your people in the world. May your love for us bear fruit in our relationships, communities, and service, that your all-embracing compassion be apparent to all in the everlasting fellowship of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:8-13

⁸ The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

- ⁹ **He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger forever.**
- ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- ¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**
- ¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- ¹³ **As a father cares for his children,
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

- ¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
- ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
- ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.
- ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.
- ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,
"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."
- ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 31)

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death (ELW #452)

CREED (WOV p. 18)

Together with all of God’s people in the world, 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

Called into gracious community with one another, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, “Lord, in your compassionate mercy,” and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. Lord, in your compassionate mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you are full of compassion and grace, and we are blessed to be welcomed into your forgiveness and redemption. May this grace be reflected in our lives and relationships, that our communities be able to thrive in your name. Lord, in your compassionate mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, your love is steadfast and it empowers us to treat each other with grace. May this love always be apparent in our actions, ministry, and lives, that all would be able to see your truth and salvation. 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, pastors, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular, we pray for Spirit of Life Lutheran Church in Vancouver and their pastor Aneeta Saroop; and North Thompson Ecumenical Shared Ministry in Barriere and Clearwater, and the pastors and leaders that serve them. Lord, in your compassionate mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, we admit that we have not lived up to your calling for us as stewards over your creation, yet you continue to bless us and entrust us with all that you have made. May the beauty and wonder of this planet be restored, and may we always appreciate it as our home. Lord, in your compassionate mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you do not deal with us according to our sins, but you treat us with a grace and love that lasts forever. May this grace be reflected in our nations and to our nations, that we might all learn to live in peace and harmony. We pray especially 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 compassionate mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, your steadfast love is great and you remove our transgressions from us, and you bring us into healing and wholeness. Be with those among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that we never lose sight of the grace that you show us all. We pray in particular for the Joughin family; Kathy and family; Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; 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...
Lord, in your compassionate mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you have compassion for us all, and in your unending welcome we see the forgiveness and salvation you so graciously give to us and have given to all the saints. May the lives of faith from the past always serve as inspiration for us as we in turn love and serve our neighbours and community. Lord, in your compassionate mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the steadfast love and grace shown to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

PEACE (WOV p. 20)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

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, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who reminds us of your forgiving and gracious nature that joins us with the choirs of angels, the hosts of heaven, and the whole church on earth in praising your name with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (WOV p. 36)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy and almighty God, you are compassionate and merciful, your abounding love is steadfast and you do not keep us in your anger. You do not treat us according to our sin and trespasses, but you regard us with grace and love and compassion, that moved you to send to us your Son Jesus to be one of us in community, showing us the ways of your unending kingdom and salvation.

For on the night that he was betrayed, your Son 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."

For it is in this bread and cup that we are reminded, O God, of your steadfast love and mercy, joining us as a community of believers, together proclaiming this basis of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

So it is to you, Lord of hosts, that all honour and glory belong, for your mercy, your grace, and your steadfast love in which we find hope and community, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (WOV p. 25)

Gathered into God's steadfast love, 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 welcoming grace and mercy.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (WOV p. 39)
Let Us Break Bread Together (ELW #471)
Here Is Bread (ELW #483)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God, you have again fed us with your grace and nourished us with your truth and redeemed us with your love and mercy. Be with us as we go from here, reflecting all that you are out into the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the blessing of the shepherding God be with you,
the love of our Saviour God fill you,
and the power found in the Spirit of God sustain you, this day and always.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, practice the good news of forgiveness and peace.
Thanks be to God.