



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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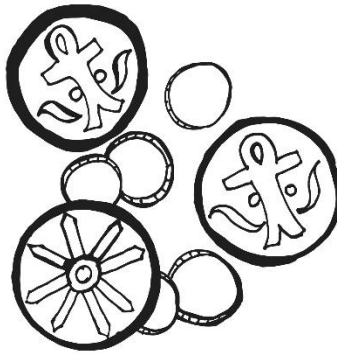
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Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

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 all who are worshipping with us in person or online! We appreciate your contribution to the community today: with your voice, your presence, and just the blessing that you are. May you be nurtured by God's Word, empowered by the love of Christ, and stirred by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in this service this day, for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Grace Lutheran Church worships, prays, and serves on the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the hənǰəmiṇəṁ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this day in worship and exultation of God our Creator as we continue to bless and praise God's name every day, forever. For our Lord is great and worthy of praise, whose marvelous works and wondrous acts are declared throughout the generations, whose glorious splendour and great goodness is sung about across the nations, whose righteousness has lifted us up in grace and compassion and saves us with a steadfast love. And so we sing our worship and praises to the Almighty God, the Saviour of us all. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING SONG: Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading (#401)

GREETING

The merciful grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the generous love of God, and the compassionate fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious and merciful God, you come to us, as we are, again and again. And you gather us together, equip us, and move us to live lives full of love and service. Increase your Spirit in us, that we might see your generosity with glad hearts in joyful communion with you and all the saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from Jonah.

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.

⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**
- ³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
- ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
- ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians.

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: God's Work, Our Hands (ACS #1000)

CREED

Together with all of God's people saved by 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

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

O God, we exalt your name with all that we are, and our trust is in you and your unending grace and generosity. Open our eyes to your compassion, that we might see you working in all people and all situations and be reminded of your everlasting presence among us. Lord, in your eternal mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, we remember the righteous works of your hands and declare them for all people to know. May our lives and ministry be a reflection of this, and may your presence in the world be made apparent because of it. We remember in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those who use our building for work, worship, 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 Dunbar Lutheran Church in Vancouver and their pastor Elina Singh; and for our BC Synod Staff and Synod Council. Lord, in your eternal mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you are worthy to be praised as your unending goodness and grace can be seen in all the wonder and beauty that you have made. May our stewardship of this planet be strengthened and our care for it be pleasing to you. Lord, in your eternal mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, your glorious splendour is apparent in your marvelous works, and we stand in awe of your majesty. May we all gravitate toward your ways of truth and reconciliation, that all the nations of this world might one day 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 eternal mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion, and you rain on us your steadfast love and healing. Be with all those among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that your hand of peace be upon us all. Especially we pray 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 eternal mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, we will always remember your goodness and righteousness as you have welcomed us all to live with you and all the saints in your kingdom. May the lives of those that we've loved and lost always be an inspiration for our faith and service in the world. Lord, in your eternal mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your generous grace, mercy, and love, shown to us 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 in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who treats us all with generous grace and mercy,
joining together with all 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 (p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy and almighty God, you are generous and gracious, and your salvation extends to all people. By your love, you bring us together and welcome us into your kingdom and join us as one family and body in the world, as you empower us to serve one another in community. And when the time was right you sent to us Jesus, your Son, to further reveal to us your ways of truth and righteousness and mercy.

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 all 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 through this bread and cup that we see your generosity, O God, welcoming us all to be part of your eternal family in your eternal kingdom, together proclaiming this 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 your steadfast love and grace that reminds us of our worth as your people for all time, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into the one body of Christ, let us pray as he 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 generosity for us all.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (p. 191)
 As the Grains of Wheat (#465)
 I Am the Bread of Life (#485)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we thank you for once again feeding and nourishing us with your Word and truth. May we continually see your abundant and generous blessing through your steadfast love and mercy, that we be empowered to reflect your grace onto all the world, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the generous grace of Christ bless you and attend you,
The astounding love of God find you,
And the surprising movement of the Holy Spirit guide you anywhere you go and in all that you do, now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Go, My Children, with My Blessing (#543)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, rejoice in God's grace.

Thanks be to God.

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