



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

7283 Nelson Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5J 4C2

Phone: 604-433-1515

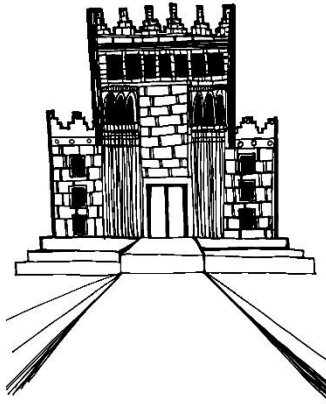
Website: www.graceburnaby.com

Email and e-transfers: office@graceburnaby.com

Pastor's email: pastor@graceburnaby.com

Follow us on Twitter! @GraceLutBurnaby

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GraceLutBurnaby



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy 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 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 hən̓q̓əmiñəm̓ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in worship of our Lord, to whom we lift up our souls and in whom we put our trust. For God shows us the ways of truth, leads us on the paths of reconciliation, and teaches us compassion and love that brings us into everlasting salvation. And so we sing praises to our God, who is gracious and up right, and rules with justice and grace, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
Thanks be to God.

GATHERING SONG: God Is Here! (#526)

GREETING

The amazing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the everlasting love of God, and the life-changing 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 are loving and kind, and you show no partiality among your children. Renew our hearts, refresh our spirits, and help us to walk in your holy ways, that we be beacons of your love and justice in the world, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel.

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

- ¹ To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
- ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- ³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- ⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- ⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians.

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

- ¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
- ⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
- ⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
- And being found in appearance as a human,
- ⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
- ⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
- ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- ¹¹ and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (ACS #1084)

CREED

Together with all of God's people, 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 and led by the Spirit into truth and reconciliation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with “Lord, in your saving mercy,” and you are invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. Lord, in your saving mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, we lift our souls to you and in you we trust. Humble us with your wisdom and graciousness, and move us serve you and neighbour with love and compassion. Lord, in your saving mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you teach us your ways of faith and righteousness and you strengthen us in community and relationship. May our ministry and service to others reflect your steadfast love, that your presence among us might be seen and known. We remember in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those that use our 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 First Lutheran Church in Vancouver and their new pastor Nikkeya (nick-KAY-ah) Berryhill; and the campus ministries and chaplains across the country that are connected with our church. Lord, in your saving mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you provide for us and you protect us, and you have created for us a home in this planet. May our stewardship of all that you have entrusted to us be pleasing to you, that your love for us be reciprocated in how we treat all living things on this planet and beyond. Lord, in your saving mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, you teach us your ways of grace and justice. Bless us in our ongoing endeavour toward truth and reconciliation in this country, that we might learn to restore and foster stronger relationships with all people in our communities and around the world. 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. Lord, in your saving mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O God, your compassion and love are everlasting and you raise us up in your goodness and healing. Be among all of us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that we might all be

blessed by your graciousness. 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 saving mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, by your upright and righteous judgement, you save us and lead us into eternity with you and all the saints. May the lives of those that we've loved and lost always inspire us in our faith, that the heart of your everlasting community be with us forever. Lord, in your saving mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hand, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your wisdom and grace, 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 reveals to us your wisdom in grace and mercy, humbling us to join
with the choirs of angels, hosts of heaven,
and church on earth
to praise your name with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy and merciful God, we praise you for your glory. For you lead us and guide us in your wisdom and truth. You forgive us when we go astray and you welcome us back into your kingdom with arms of grace. And when the time was right, you send to us your son Jesus to be our example of community and right relationship with you and all people.

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."

And 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."

It is in this bread and cup that we see our connection to you and each other, where we can learn of your grace and mercy and be led to be your people in the world, together proclaiming this basis of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

All honour and glory are yours, O God, for your grace and mercy reveals to us the ways of your truth and justice through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, as one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into community 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

Take and eat, God's gracious salvation for us all.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (p. 191)

United at the Table (#498)

Once Bread, One Body (#496)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we give you thanks for feeding and nourishing us with your truth and wisdom. Continue guiding us in humility, that our hearts be open to all that you do in the world and we be moved to love and serve you and all people, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the God of our lifted souls, bless you in everything you do and everywhere you are, the God that brings us into salvation shine on you with everlasting love and grace, and the God who unites us in spirit and community look upon you all with favour, and grant you unsurpassing peace, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: We Know That Christ Is Raised (#449)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, be of the same humble mind as Christ.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.