



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2026

ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

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 hən̓q̓əmi̓nəḥ̓ (Musqueam) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord our Shepherd, in whom we have no wants or fears. For God leads us, guides us, and brings us to the peace that restores our souls and our faith. And so we come forth into the house of the Lord as welcomed children of God to share in the feast of salvation, where we are shown God's goodness and mercy for all the days of our lives, through Jesus Christ. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

DEDICATION

We are also gathered today with the Gordon family, to dedicate young Whitney to the Christian faith and life. Together, we welcome her into this community in Christ.

Scott and Evangeline, do you present Whitney to be dedicated to God's fold as one of God's own, into Christ's gracious arms of community and salvation, and to be welcomed by the Holy Spirit into this congregation?

We do.

Will you, by God's wisdom, promise to expose Whitney to the Word of God, that she might learn of and live in the ways of God's righteousness and justice?

We will.

Will you, by the grace of Christ, endeavour to bring her up in the faith, that she can be part of and contribute to the life of God's community?

We will.

Will you, empowered by the Spirit of all truth and peace, raise her to serve God and others, to proclaim God's mercy through word and deed, and to grow in God's grace?

We will.

And you, people of God, will you help Scott, Evangeline, Chelsea, and Whitney hear the gospel of Christ here in this community and in and around our lives together?

We will.

And now Whitney, by the support and dedication of her family and community, will hear and be raised in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray that it speaks to her, empowers her, and fills her heart with hope and love, that she may know the goodness of God's promises and the life that truly is life.

May you, Whitney, child of God, receive God's blessing, Christ's light, and the love of the Holy Spirit, now and always.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, creator and giver of life, you have called us into your light, your love, your life, and you lift us up from the ways of the world and our guilt and shame. Grant Whitney and the whole Gordon family your blessing, that they all grow in your Spirit and in knowledge of your grace and in faith in your character, that we all be witnesses of your presence in and around our lives, our community, and the world, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

May the God of all grace, who has called you from even before you were born, shine on you, lift you up, and make you strong. **Amen.**

Gordon family, I welcome you all into this community of faith and to hear God's Word with us all. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (#843)

GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you set before us each day a bounty of good things and blessings that remind us of your great love and grace. Bring us to your feasting table, that as we are nourished by your Word, we be empowered to build, to serve, and to love, through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹ O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

A reading from Philippians.

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have

learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.'

⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Beautiful Savior (#838)

CREED

Together with all welcomed at God's table, 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

Welcomed into celebration and thanksgiving, let us pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need. Each petition will end with, “by your everlasting mercy, O God,” and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. By your everlasting mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you are our shepherd and in you we are not in want. You have blessed us in more ways that we can count, and your faithfulness endures forever. Remind us always of your presence among us, that in our thankfulness we be empowered to proclaim your goodness to all the world. By your everlasting mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, in you we have nothing to fear, for you are our rock and our redeemer. You strengthen us for your service with your love and grace, and you call us to be witnesses of your goodness. May our ministry in the world reflect this call, and may we be effective in our proclamation. We lift up in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those that 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. Peter’s Estonian Lutheran Church in Vancouver, and their interim pastor Andres Rebane; and for Peace Lutheran in Vernon and the pastors and leaders that serve there. By your everlasting mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, we see the green pastures and still waters of the world, and we know that all that you have made is good. May our appreciation for your creation be reflected in our stewardship, that the beauty and wonder of this world be preserved and cherished. By your everlasting mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you guide us along right pathways toward justice and peace. Grant your wisdom upon all world leaders and politicians, that we might all be able to put aside nationalistic differences and learn to work together for the good of all. We pray for our upcoming election in BC, that all who are called to serve have the best of their constituents in mind. We pray also for the continued support of those that we’ve sponsored to come into our country: Abraham Berhane; Solyana Amanuel; and Filimon Abraha; as well as those who have not yet arrived: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Meri, Surafiel, Nohom, and Elita Gabramikael. By your everlasting mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you anoint us and fill our cups with overflowing blessing and healing. You welcome us to your banqueting table where we find community, support, and wholeness. Be with all who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that your love can be seen and felt by all. Especially

we pray for the Rostad family; 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); Hugh; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...By your everlasting mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives, and you welcome us to dwell in your eternal house with you and all the saints. May we always recognize and be filled by this connection we share as the one body of Christ. By your everlasting mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love and peace, in 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 Saviour Jesus Christ;
who invites and welcomes us all into your love,
joining 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 (p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, in your humble power you bring us together to join in the feast that is to come, to live as a community and kingdom in your name, and to be your hands and feet in the world to welcome, serve, and show compassion to all people. And in the fullness of time, you send to us your Son Jesus to lead and guide us into your ways of goodness and mercy, that your love might be reflected in all that we do.

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 heavenly food, therefore, that we are invited and welcomed into the celebration of your holy name and salvation as we together proclaim the basis of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

So it is to you, O God, that all glory and honour belong, for all that you do and all that you give in your blessing, in your mercy, and in the feast of joy and salvation that shall never end, through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together as one 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, God welcoming us to life and love.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (p. 191)

All Creatures, Worship God Most High! (#835)

Oh, Sing to the Lord (#822)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we give you thanks for again feeding and nourishing us with your love and grace, that continually reveal the connection we share in your community. By your Word, you invite and welcome us to your unending celebration and blessing, that we be empowered and strengthened to be your people in the world, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May God our Shepherd bless you and guide you,
God our Saviour lift us up into all goodness and grace,
God the Spirit bring you into community and grant you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song (#808)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, rejoice in the Lord always.
Thanks be to God.

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