



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of 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 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 hə́nqə́mihə́m (Musqueam) and Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather this day to worship our Lord by singing with all the earth, blessing God's name, and proclaiming the gospel of salvation to all the world. For God's glory resides among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples and throughout the heavens that God has created. And so we recognise God's majesty and magnificence, power and splendour, honour and power, that leads us give praises God with all that we are in the beauty of God's holiness, through Jesus Christ. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING SONG: Take My Life, That I May Be (#583)

GREETING

The generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the life-giving love of God, and the community-building fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your name is imprinted on our hearts as we are created in your image. May the love you have for us be apparent in our ministry, service, and all we say and do, that your name be proclaimed through all the earth, through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
- ² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.
² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly
³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by
God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only
but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of

persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: We Give Thee but Thine Own (#686)

CREED

Gathered into one as 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, 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 recognition and appreciation of God's goodness, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, "by your saving mercy, O God," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. By your saving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, all the earth sings to you, for you are glorious, gracious, and generous. Empower us as your hands and feet in the world, that our service to all people can accurately reflect your love. By your saving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, we bless your name and proclaim your salvation all the days of our lives. May our witness to your righteousness and grace be effective, and may all whom we encounter feel your presence in their lives. 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 Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops, rostered ministers, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular we pray for Lutheran Church of the Cross in Victoria and their pastor Lyndon Sayers; and for all the prison chaplains and their ministries across this country. By your saving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, your glory is declared among the nations and your wonders are reflected in all that you have made. May our appreciation for your creation be seen in our care of this planet and everything in it, and may your love shine through the trust that you have given us. By your saving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, throughout the nations we find images of idols and evidence of greed, but your glorious image of love and grace resides in all our hearts. May all world leaders and politicians ascribe to the image of you in us all, that their work in governing be for the good of all. We pray for the continued support of those that we've helped to come into this country: Abraham Barhane; 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 saving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, we know that your power and splendor are found in your sanctuary, as we ascribe to you the honour due to your holy and healing name. Be with those among us who are sick, who mourn, or who feel lonely, that your image imprinted upon all of us never be forgotten or unseen. We pray especially for 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; Wai Lan (why-LAHN); and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time...

By your saving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we worship your holiness as you welcome us into your courts of praise, joining us with you and all the saints forever. May we always be reminded of the connection we share with you and each other, that we might see your image in the face of even the stranger. May your love for us be reflected in all that we do and in how we treat each other. By your saving mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your care and compassion, shown to us through Jesus Christ our Saviour and 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 who we are and whose we are,
welcoming us to join with all the choirs of angels,
the hosts of heaven,
and the church on earth,
in praising your name with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy and merciful God, you have created us and rightfully claimed us as your own. And even when we could not live up to your calling, you pick us up and remind us of your love and grace as you welcome us back into community with you and each other forever with a gracious love. And when the time was right, you sent to us Jesus, your Son, to teach us, lead us, and set an example for us that we might see you more clearly in our lives.

For on the night that he was betrayed, 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 after they ate it, he took the cup, gave thanks, and passed 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 are reminded of our connection in community, our relationship to each other, and our welcome into God's kingdom as we declare this basis of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

So it is to you, O God, that we ascribe all glory and majesty, knowing that you are the one who creates us out of love, imprints an image of community on our hearts, and forgives us out of an unparalleled grace and mercy. We give you thanks for all that you do, have done, and continue to do through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into God's steadfast love 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's grace imprinted onto our hearts.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (p. 191)

Praise and Thanksgiving (#689)

We Are an Offering (#692)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, again you have fed and nourished us with your Word and truth, and you remind us of who we are and how we belong to you. Strengthen our souls for your service, that your love, blessing, and welcome be seen in all that we do, through Jesus Christ and by the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING**BLESSING**

May the God who made us bless you and keep you,
the God who saves us shine on you and be gracious onto you,
the God whose image we bear be seen in and around us, and give us peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: God of Grace and God of Glory (#705)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, proclaim God's glory in all that you do.
Thanks be to God.