



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026

ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

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

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the name of the God of hosts, who restores us, whose face shines on us, and who graciously saves us from sin and shame. Throughout creation, throughout the nations, God's love for us has outshone the mountains, the seas, and every wall that we have put up between us and it. And in this love, God turns to us, looks at us, and lifts us up in forgiveness and mercy, and brings us into life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING SONG: Rise Up, O Saints of God! (#669)

GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you have made the heavens and the earth out of your great love, and you have entrusted it to us in grace and generosity. But we have not been faithful in our stewardship, yet you continue you forgive us, renew us, and restore us out of your mercy, empowering us to bear the fruits of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-15

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
⁸ **You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**
⁹ You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.
¹⁰ **The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**
¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.
¹² **Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**
¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
¹⁴ **Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**
¹⁵ behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 34b-14

A reading from Philippians.

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said:] ³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?

⁴³ "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was

speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: O God, Who Gives Us Life (ACS #1086)

CREED

Together with all of God's redeemed, 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 the generosity and compassion of God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with "God, by your restoring mercy," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer**. God, by your restoring mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you restore us even in our sin, and you lift us up as your people in the world. Remind us of your calling for our lives, that we might live with faith in community and right relationship with all people. God, by your restoring mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, your face shines upon us and we are saved by your love and grace. May the love you show us be reflected onto all whom we encounter and may it drive our ministry and service. We remember 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. Especially we pray for Hills of Peace Lutheran Church in Kamloops and their pastor John Boyd; and for Redeemer Lutheran Church in Vancouver and their pastor Katrin Vigen (VEE-gan). God, by your restoring mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, you have adorned the vine of life with beauty and hope. May we trust in the good order of your creation, that our stewardship and care for all that you have made be pleasing to you, as this planet remains to house us and our communities for generations. God, by your restoring mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you break down the walls that separate us and you bring us together to live as one in your kingdom and community. But there continues to be walls put up between us in our countries, cultures, and customs, and we've learned to distrust each other. Instill in us a sense of peace in knowing that you love us all the same, regardless of our ethnicity, nationality, or upbringing. 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. God, by your restoring mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you look at us from the heavens and you reach out to us with your hand of healing. Lift us up with your love, and be especially with those of us who mourn, who are sick, or who feel lonely, that we might all be able to see the joy in the life lived in you. 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...
God, by your restoring mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you know us and tend to our needs, and you preserve our lives by including us in your eternal story with all the saints. May we always be inspired by the lives of faith in the past, and may we always remember our connection with them as we continue to navigate our lives in your kingdom and community. God, by your restoring mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the everlasting grace that you give 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 Saviour Jesus Christ;
who leads us into all grace and mercy,

shows us a life of community and compassion,
and joins us with the choirs of angels,
the hosts of heaven, and the church on earth,
to praise your name with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, are you indeed mighty and merciful, and in you we have nothing to fear. You are our shepherd that leads us into joy and peace, and you reveal to us the eternal welcome that you extend. Your grace is never ending, and you shine on us a mercy that is everlasting. For in the fullness of time, you have sent to us your Son Jesus, who showed to us how your steadfast love lasts forever.

For on the night that he was betrayed, your son Jesus sat with his friends for a meal, and 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."

So it is in this bread and cup that we can see your love, we can feel your grace, and we can taste your mercy, as we together proclaim the basis of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

It is to you, O God, that all honour and glory belong, as we give thanks for all that you have done in loving us, saving us, and joining us together as the one body of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by God's grace and mercy, 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 compassionate generosity for us all.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS: Lamb of God (p. 191)

For the Fruit of All Creation (#679)

The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies (#683)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, you have again fed us with your Word and nourished us with your truth and strengthened us with your love. Empower us as we go from here, that we be energized for your service to all the world, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the grace of God live within you and bring you blessing and joy,
the face of God shine on you and save you from shame,
and the embrace of God hold you in love and bring you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: Lord of Light (#688)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, live in God's compassion and grace.

Thanks be to God.

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