GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF SOUTH BURNABY, BC
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Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026
ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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 hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ (Musqueam) and Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP
We gather to worship our Lord, who has been our refuge from one generation to another. For God has watched over us from even before the world was created, from age to age, since time began, and held us as God's own children. Even in our shortcomings, we lean on God's strength and power to embolden us to serve, and even in our fears, we trust in God's grace and love to comfort us in our failings. And so we worship this God who gives more than we can ask or imagine, and we apply our hearts to God's truth, wisdom, and compassion, through Jesus Christ. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING SONGS: O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate (#722)

GREETING
The empowering grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the generous 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
O God, the gifts you give renew us and reform us and bring us into your redemption. Continue changing our lives that we might fully see and be emboldened by your truth, grace, and love, and instill in us the confidence to be your people in the world, proclaiming your message of salvation and community for all, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
A reading from Zephaniah.
Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

[14] The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
[15] That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
[16] a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
[17] I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
[18] Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-12

[1] Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
[2] **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.
[3] You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
[4] **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;
[5] you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
[6] **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
[7] For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
[8] **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
[9] When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
[10] **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

[11] Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?
[12] **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
A reading from 1 Thessalonians.
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents

also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Christ, Be Our Light (#715)

CREED
Together with those all redeemed by God's 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 recognize and know God's grace in our lives, let us in turn pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, "Lord, by your unending mercy," and you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer.** Lord, by your unending mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you have been our refuge from generation to generation, and in you we find comfort and strength. As your love is revealed to us in our lives, may we continue to be empowered to serve you and neighbour without fear. Lord, by your unending mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you are always been present with us in our community and all that we do, graciously filling us with hope in your love. May our ministry reflect the trust we have in you, that all people might see your face in the world and your hand at work. We lift up in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those who use our building for worship, work, and play; our partners Anglican Church of Canada and Moravian Church in Canada; and our bishops, rostered leaders, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. In particular, we pray for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Prince George and the pastors and leaders that serve them; as well as for our own Grace Lutheran Church here in Burnaby and our pastor and leaders. Lord, by your unending mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you brought forth the lands and the mountains and all the earth, revealing from age to age that you are God. Strengthen us in our stewardship of your creation, that its beauty and resources continue to house life for the generations to come. Lord, by your unending mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, your justice is about grace and mercy even when we fear it's about anger and wrath. May all world leaders, politicians, and people of influence always be mindful of your unending forgiveness and peace, that we all may be governed and relate to each other through that lens. We also remember in prayer those that we've sponsored to come to our country: Abraham Berhane; 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, by your unending mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, in light of our iniquities we find healing and support in your countenance. You remain with us throughout our lives, showing us that we are not alone but connected with each other in community and faith. We pray for those among us who are sick, who are ill, or who mourn, that your love always shine in and through us all. Especially we pray for the Rostad family; Kathy and family; Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Janet; 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); Louisa; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time… Lord, by your unending mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you teach us to number our days that we might apply to our hearts your eternal wisdom. Remind us always that we are welcomed into your kingdom, where we might be joined with you and all the saints of all times and places as one community and body of Christ. Lord, by your unending mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the power of your name, shown to us by Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

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 reminds us of your grace and mercy,
eternally bestowed upon us by your love,
welcoming us to confidently join 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 (ELW p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE
Holy and merciful God, we come before you not out of trepidation but with confidence, knowing that you are kind and benevolent. We enter your grates not out of fear but with gratitude and appreciation for your grace, shown to us by your blessings. We call on your name not out of apprehension or panic, but in the knowledge of your forgiving character, your gentle presence, and your loving mercy, shown to us in the life and teaching of your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent to teach us your ways of righteousness and peace.

For on the night that he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ 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 it, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and passed it around the table for 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 are reminded of your providence, your inclusion, and your community, drawing us all together ready to contemplate and proclaim this basis of our faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

For it is to you, O God, that all honour and glory belong, for you bless us, you welcome us, and you give us what we need for life with you, in your kingdom, and with all the saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER
Brought into one with love and grace, 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 gracious love and blessing.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS
Lamb of God (p.191)
The Pain of the World Surrounds Us (#704)
What Wondrous Love (#666)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Holy God, we give you thanks for again feeding us and nourishing us with your truth and wisdom, filling us with your blessing and revealing to us the welcome we receive from your love and grace, bringing us together as the one body of Christ. May we be strengthened by this promise always, that we can confidently go into the world as your people in service and ministry, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

BLESSING
May the God who is ever-lovingly gracious keep you fervent in faith,
the God who is ever-lavishly generous, hold you steadfast in hope,
the God who is everlastingly good bless you with love, peace, and joy, now and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand (ACS #1024)

DISMISSAL
Go in peace, emboldened by God's abundant blessing.
Thanks be to God.

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