

Holy Communion

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

September 13th, 2026



The servant's master
took pity on him, canceled the debt
and let him go.

Matthew 18:27

Grac⁺ε
GRONINGEN ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you.**

SONG Joy (What the world calls foolish) Words & Music: Martin Smith

Chorus I've got joy in the morning, joy in the evening
You keep me dancing in every season
Whatever comes tomorrow, I've got joy

Why would I not sing of your praises even when troubles come?
Why would I not worship forever 'cause I've seen the good
you've done?

And I'm not ashamed, I'm a sinner saved, no, I'm not afraid anymore
What the world calls foolish, You call freedom, now I won't hold
back anymore. *Chorus*

I'm letting go, I'm wild in Your presence, dance 'til the sun comes up
You make me strong, whenever I praise You, Jesus, You fill my cup

And I'm not ashamed, I'm a sinner saved, no, I'm not afraid anymore
What the world calls foolish, You call freedom, now I won't hold
back anymore. *Chorus*

Yes, I've got joy in the sunshine, joy in the rain
You keep me dancing, again and again
Whatever comes tomorrow, I've got joy.

Refrain I got joy, joy, joy down in my heart
I got joy, joy, joy down in my heart
I got joy, joy, joy down in my heart, hallelujah.

Chorus

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse
the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy
Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily
magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

God shows his love for us, in that, while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing
our sins in penitence and faith. *cf Romans 5.8*

**God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said
and done, and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past, and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution.

Gloria

Words and Music: Donna Adkins & Colin Mawby

Father, we love You / We worship and adore You
Glorify Your name in all the earth /
Glorify Your name / Glorify Your name
Glorify Your name in all the earth
Jesus, we love You ... Spirit, we love You ...

SONG Mighty to Save Words & Music: Reuben Morgan & Ben Fielding

Everyone needs compassion / A love that's never-failing
Let mercy fall on me.

Everyone needs forgiveness / The kindness of a saviour
The hope of nations

CHORUS Saviour, he can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save / He is mighty to save
Forever author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as you find me / All my fears and failures
Fill my life again.

I give my life to follow / Everything I believe in
Now I surrender

CHORUS

BRIDGE Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing for the glory of the risen king

Collect Prayer (Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity)

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Epistle Reading: Romans 14:1-12 (NIV) *The weak and the strong*

14:¹ Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

18:²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

HYMN Praise my soul the King of Heaven Words: HF Lyte; Music: J Goss
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;/ To his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,/ Evermore his praises sing.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! / Praise the everlasting king.

Praise him for his grace and favour/ To all peoples in distress;
Praise him still the same forever, / Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! / Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;/ All our hopes and fears he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us, / Rescues us from all our foes.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! / Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him; / You behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him; / All who dwell in time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! / Praise with us the God of grace.

Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God
from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the
right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the
Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We
acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

And at the end

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. *cf Colossians 3.14,15*

and also with you.

Preparation of the Table

SONG Oh how good it is Words & Music: Keith & Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend

Oh how good it is / When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit / In faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, / Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence / Here among us.

Chorus So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
And with one heart we'll live out His word
Till the whole earth sees / The Redeemer has come
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is / On this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy / And weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength / The afflicted find grace
When we offer the blessing / Of belonging. *Chorus*

Oh how good it is / To embrace His command
To prefer one another / Forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one / We all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father / And the Spirit. *Chorus*

Taking of the Bread and Wine (Prayer H)

The Lord is here **His Spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all
share in one bread.**

Communion is shared, and music may be played.

After the post communion prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

NOTICES

HYMN Great is thy Faithfulness Words T Chisholm; Music WM Runyan arr R Simpson

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not
As thou hast been, thou for ever will be:

Refrain Great is thy faithfulness / Great is thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed thy hand hath provided
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love: *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



Morning worship: 2nd Sundays, (Holy Communion) at 10:30 am;
4th Sundays (Holy Communion) at 10:30 am,
all at **St Maarten-langs-de-weg** (Oud Katholieke Kerk), Witte de Withstraat, 2, Groningen.
From October 2026, there will also be Services of the Word/Evening Prayers at 16:00 on 1st Sundays.

Web-site: <http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>; Facebook (Grace Church Groningen).
Chaplain: the Ven Sam Van Leer, Mon-Wed-Fri, chaplaingracechurchgn@gmail.com or 050 785 0703.

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Kramer; gracesafeguarding@gmail.com
Safeguarding in Grace Church: <https://gracechurchgroningen.com/caring/safeguarding/>
Diocese: <https://www.europe.anglican.org/resources/safeguarding-diocese-europe>

Media privacy: please note that films or photos featuring others in worship and fellowship should not be taken or shared without the consent of those appearing in them.

Our worship services and ministry in Groningen are made possible by people voluntarily offering their time, talents and financial support.

As God has blessed us, so we thank Him by giving accordingly. To help support Grace Church, there is an opportunity to put an offering in the collection basket during the service or near the exit afterwards.

It is also possible to donate by electronic transfer to
Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church),
account: NL 67 RABO 03012946 23. Or with this QR code:



Grace Church Forthcoming Services & Activities:

- Sunday 27 September, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 4 October, 16:00: Grace Service of the Word/Evening Prayer, Location t.b.a.
- Sunday 11 October, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 25 October, 10:30: Grace Holy Communion, Old Catholic Church.
- Sunday 1 November, 16:00: Grace Service of the Word/Evening Prayer, Old Catholic Church
- Sunday 8 November, 10:30: Grace Service of Remembrance, Old Catholic Church.

Movie Nights (at 19:30 at SKLO Bldg, Kraneweg 33, Groningen): dates t.b.a.

For info on Home Groups, Bible Study gatherings & other events, please do ask us!