



St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – July 26, 2026

“Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.” *John 6.68*

Welcome

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship.

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is a member of the Diocese of British Columbia and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are an inclusive and welcoming parish: the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we. As a parish we acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen peoples. We commit ourselves, as a settler church and people, to continue with our First Nations hosts on the journey of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

The Collection Plate *has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. During the Offertory hymn the plate will be placed on the Altar where it will be blessed. Please also consider one of the other available means of giving regularly: electronic donations on our website via CanadaHelps, or monthly direct debit donations via the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance program - details are available in a brochure at the entrance, or on the website: www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate).*

Flower Dedications

If you would like to schedule a **Memorial Flower Arrangement** at the next opportunity, please contact Anne Underhill, aunderhill@stmarysoakbay.ca

10:00am Service

From the Book of Alternative Services

Minister of Welcome:	Scott MacKenzie	Organist:	Janet Yonge
Presider:	The Rev'd Dr John Macquarrie	Musicians:	St. Mary Singers
Preacher:	The Rev'd Dyan Davison	Livestream:	Nathan Turner & Samantha Robbins
Eucharistic Minister:	David Stewart		

Please note that this service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending in person, you are acknowledging and consent to the fact that the video images of you may appear online.

*In the service order, words set in **bold italic type** are said by the congregation.*

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN

New Every Morning is the Love (7)

1. New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.
2. New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of
heaven.
3. If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still of countless price
God will provide for sacrifice.
4. Old friends, old scenes will lovelier be,
as more of heaven in each we see;
some softening gleam of love and prayer
shall dawn on every cross and care.
5. The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we ought to ask:
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God.
6. Only, O Lord, in thy dear love
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you

CENTRING STILLNESS

Silence is kept.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God of heaven and earth, ***you reveal your wisdom to the childlike; may we learn from your Son humility of heart, so that we find refreshment and rest even as we shoulder the cross of Christ; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

Opening Prayers (1997) alt.

The congregation sits

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

A Statement on the Lectionary Readings

Throughout Christian history, references to “the Jews” in scripture—particularly in John and Acts—have been used to perpetuate negative stereotypes and falsely assign blame for the death of Jesus. These references gloss over significant distinctions among religious leaders, such as Pharisees, scribes, and Sadducees, and obscure the fact that Jesus and his disciples were themselves Jews. As Christians, we confess and lament the history of anti-Judaism associated with these texts. We renounce the evils of violence and discrimination against Jewish people. We strive for mutual understanding, respect, and partnership with Jewish neighbors and commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation among people of all faiths.

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Genesis 29. 15-28, Sherry Armstrong

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, ‘Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?’ ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, ‘I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.’ ¹⁹ Laban said, ‘It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.’ ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.

²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ ²⁶ Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’

²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife. Holy word, holy wisdom. ***Thanks be to God.***

PSALM 119. 105. 1-11, 45C

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the divine name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.

***Sing to the Lord, sing praises,
and speak of all the marvellous works of the Lord.***

Glory in the holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

***Search for the strength of the Lord;
continually seek the face of God.***

Remember the marvels the Lord has done,
the wonders and the judgements of the mouth of the Lord,

***O offspring of Abraham the servant of God,
O children of Jacob the chosen of the Lord.***

The Lord is our God,
whose judgements prevail in all the world,

***who has always been mindful of the covenant,
the promise made for a thousand generations:***

the covenant made with Abraham,
the oath sworn to Isaac,

***established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,***

saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan
to be your allotted inheritance."

Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

Romans 8. 26-39, Mary Huxley

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN

A Spendthrift Lover is the Lord (177)

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| 1. A spendthrift lover is the Lord
who never counts the cost
or asks if heaven can afford
to woo a world that's lost.
Our lover tosses coins of gold
across the midnight skies
and stokes the sun against the cold
to warm us when we rise. | 2. Still more is spent in blood and tears
to win the human heart,
to overcome the violent fears
that drive the world apart.
Behold the bruised and
thorn-crowned face
of one who bears our scars
and empties out the wealth of grace
That's hinted by the stars. |
|--|--|

3. How shall we love this heart-strong God
who gives us everything,
whose ways to us are strange and odd;
what can we give or bring?
Acceptance of the matchless gift
is gift enough to give.
The very act will shake and shift
the way we love and live.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

Before the Gospel is read, the reader says:

God is with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

³¹ Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.' ...

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

The Gospel of Christ. ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SERMON

ANTHEM

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Mary Huxley

The congregation stands, sits, or kneels.

Lord, your will be done,
your kingdom come in us.

In your prayers this week remember those in need of healing and care. In our diocese of islands and inlets pray for Anna, our Bishop; John, our Metropolitan; Chris, our National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop; and Shane, our Primate; for St Philip by-the-Sea, Lantzville and their clergy; pray for the Diocese of Kootenay, and Bishop Lynn McNaughton. In the Church further afield, pray for The Anglican Church of Tanzania. Pray for the Staff of the Canadian College of Performing Arts, and for the families of the Oak Bay Preschool.

PEACE

The congregation stands

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Remaining in our places, we share signs of Peace with those around us.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

For safety, the Collection Plate has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. It will be moved to the front of the church during the Offertory hymn and placed in a location where you may place your gifts as you come to receive Communion. Please also consider one of the other means of giving that do not require our volunteers and staff to handle cash and cheques:

OFFERTORY

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou mayest smile at all thy foes.
2. See! The streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, when such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age?

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken (388)

3. Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering –
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
light by night and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding
which God gives them when they pray.
4. Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the world's best pleasure,
all its boasted pomp and show:
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, so that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Book of Alternative Services, Eucharistic Prayer 5

The congregation remains standing, as they are able

The Lord is 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.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do.

In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we sing.

Repeat each line after the cantor:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,'
God of power and 'might,
Heaven and earth are full,'
are full of your glo'ry.***

***Blessed is the one who comes'
in the name of the 'Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,'
hosanna in the high'est. 3x***

St Bride Setting, The Iona Community

We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected.

Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love.

On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, "Drink this, all of you:

this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant,
which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in memory of me.”

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Gracious God,
with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus,
and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts,
that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the life
of the family of your children.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus,
that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom.

We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of
the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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 for ever. Amen.***

Silence is held

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

***We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.***

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION

All are invited to receive Communion.

The sacrament will be offered in both kinds (bread and the common cup) but be assured that in the Anglican Church of Canada it has always been our tradition that receiving only one of the elements is considered full Communion. Gluten-free wafers for communion are available. Please request it from the person who is distributing the bread.

If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are also welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. This is signified by folding your hands across your chest as you approach the presider.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Jesus Joy of Man’s Desiring (514)

1.

Jesus, joy of our desiring,
holy wisdom, love most bright;
drawn by thee, our souls aspiring
soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
with the fire of life impassioned,
striving still to truth unknown,
soaring, dying round thy throne.
2.

Through the way where hope is guiding,
hark, what peaceful music rings,
where the flock, in thee confiding,
drink of joy from deathless springs.
Theirs is beauty’s fairest pleasure;
theirs is wisdom’s holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead thine own
in the love of joys unknown.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

COMMUNITY NOTES

GLORY TO GOD

The congregation stands

Glory to God, **whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

HYMN

Praise the one Who Breaks the Darkness (397)

1. Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.
Praise the one who frees the prisoners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel,
healing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

2. Praise the one who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the one who drove out demons
with a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand.
From this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.
3. Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory,
praise the One who makes us one.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The musical postlude is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for our encounter with God's Word as it has been experienced this day. You are invited to use this time for reflection, remaining seated.



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Priest Associate:	The Reverend Dyan Davison associate@stmarysoakbay.ca
Honorary Associate:	The Reverend Dr John Macquarrie jmacquarrie@stmarysoakbay.ca

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