

# Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



Worship  
September 5th, 2021  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

---

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**Amen.**

## Greeting & Prayer of the Day

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God of Wisdom,

Call us back to your breath and your Spirit who resides within our very being. May we nourish our hearts of faith and listen to your divine wisdom, which calls us to walk a different path in this world. Watch over us as we tend our seeds of faith, that we might bear good fruit for your creation, drawing nearer and nearer to you along the way. In the name of Christ, whose name is Love, we pray.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a (New Egalitarian Translation)

If there are any wise and learned among you, let them show it by good living - with humility, and with wisdom in their actions. But if you have the bitterness of jealousy or self-seeking ambition in your hearts, be careful or you'll find yourself becoming arrogant and covering up the truth with lies. This kind of "wisdom" doesn't come from above. It is earth-bound, animal-like, and demonic. Where there is jealousy and ambition, there is also disharmony and wickedness of every kind. The wisdom from above, however, has purity as its essence. It works for peace; it's kind and considerate. It's full of compassion and shows itself by doing good. Nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these conflicts and battles among you first start? Isn't it that they come from the desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it, so you're prepared to kill to get it. You have ambitions that you can't satisfy, so you fight to get your way by force. The reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask for it in prayer. And when you do ask and don't get it, it's because you haven't prayed properly. You have prayed in order to indulge your own pleasures.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the Devil, and it will flee from you. Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

Psalm 54 (New Egalitarian Translation)

O God, save me by the power of your Name,  
defend me by your might!

**God, hear my prayer;  
listen to the words of my mouth.**

Strangers attack me;  
ruthless scoundrels seek my life;  
they don't give God a single thought.

**For you are my helper,  
the One who sustains my life.**

May their own malice recoil on my slanderers;  
silence them with your truth.

**I will offer you a willing sacrifice  
and praise your Name, YHWH, for it is good.**

You have rescued me from every trouble;  
I have seen my enemies' downfall with my own eyes.

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37 (New Egalitarian Translation)

[Jesus and the disciples] left that district and began a journey through Galilee, but Jesus did not want anyone to know about it. He was teaching the disciples along these lines: "The Promised One is going to be delivered into the hands of others and will be put to death, but three days later this One will rise again." Though they failed to understand these words, they were afraid to question him.

They returned home to Capernaum. Once they were inside the home, Jesus began to ask them, "What were you discussing on the way home?" At this they fell silent, for on the way they had been arguing about who among them was the most important. SO Jesus sat down and called the Twelve over and said, "If any of you wants to be first, you must be the last one of all, and at the service of all."

Then Jesus brought a child into their midst and, putting his arm around the child, said to them, "whoever welcomes a child such as this for my sake welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the One who sent me."

Word of God for the People of God,  
**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of the Day: Let There Be Peace on Earth - UMH 431

*The hymn of the day will be hummed only. You may read the lyrics on the screen or in the hymnal and use this as a time of quiet meditation.*

### Joys & Concerns

*If you are worshipping with us online and would like to share any joys, concerns, or prayer requests, please type them into the comments of the worship video and they will be lifted up either during service or throughout the rest of the week.*

### Prayers of the People

Joined together as one people in God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake, and the sake of your creation on earth.

God, in your grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we rejoice in the miraculous gift of rain that you send to quench the thirsts of creation. As the earth opens herself to your nourishing gift of life, may we remember our baptismal identity and open ourselves to the sustaining love you offer us all.

God, in your grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for every nation of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Open our hearts to those displaced by violence, oppression, and the hazards of our human society, that all might find safety and refuge.

God, in your grace,

**hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Show us how to support the health wholeness of individuals, for when one part of the body suffers, so do all the rest.

God, in your grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Offering

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance,  
you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
and manna to rain from the heavens.  
Accept the gifts you have first given us.  
Unite them with the offering of our lives  
to nourish the world you love so dearly;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as  
we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

...

Remembering Christ's death, we cry out Amen. [**Amen**]  
Celebrating Christ's resurrection, we shout Amen. [**Amen**]  
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. [**Amen**]

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with  
yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire:  
transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you  
show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant  
us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life  
in you, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation that is most familiar to you - the language of your heart:

**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.**

This table of bread and wine has now been made ready.  
So come to this table,  
You who have much faith  
and you who would like to have more;  
you who have been here often  
and you who have not been here long  
you who have tried to follow Jesus,  
and you who have failed;  
Come and eat. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

*- Communion Distribution -*

Prayer after Communion

Creator of life,  
in the gift of your body and blood  
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.  
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,  
bearing witness to the abundance of your love  
in Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.  
**Amen.**

## Announcements

### Blessing & Dismissal

The blessing of our Triune God,  
Creator of Love, Redeemer of our Hearts, and Sustainer of our Lives,  
✠ abide within you, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Sending Song: The Lord Now Sends Us Forth - ELW 538

### Dismissal

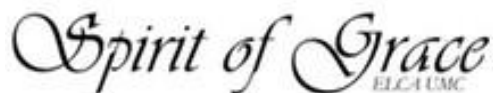
Go in peace. Live a life filled with the Spirit.  
**We will! Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

## Announcements

- Tonight there will be a **Liturgy of Remembrance** held by Eccumenical Ministries of Oregon to honor the memory of Alonzo Tucker, who was lynched on September 18th, 1902 in Coos Bay, OR. We will gather virtually as an act of public remembrance as we renew our commitment to justice for all people and a future in which such acts of violence and oppression no longer exist. The service will be held on **September 19th at 6:30pm** - the link will be available on the homepage of our website.
- We have been invited by the Oregon Synod Office to put together a group of 4 or more individuals to participate in this year's **Reckoning with Racism Cohort** through Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. This program offers accompaniment for faith communities as they grappled with Oregon's legacy of racism in a process of learning, listening, and engaging. The cohort will meet twice a month beginning in October - once as a large group with the cohort from around the state via zoom, and once as a small group. There is an informational session this evening at 7:30pm, immediately following the Liturgy of Remembrance service.
  - For more information, please go to this website:  
<https://emoregon.org/education-dialogue/racism/>
  - We currently have 3 participants interested, and are looking for at least one more! If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Miranda as soon as possible. A link to the informational session will be emailed to those interested early this afternoon. Attending the informational session is not a commitment, and the cohort will not begin meeting until October.

- The September/October edition of our newsletter will be going out by the end of this week! If you have any information, announcements, or photos to include, please make sure to email those to Jennifer in the office at [office@hoodriverchurch.com](mailto:office@hoodriverchurch.com) by the end of the day today.
- Due to a scheduling conflict, the Spirit of Grace **Board of Directors** did not meet last week, but will be meeting on Tuesday, September 28th at 6:00pm.
- Our **bell choir** will resume rehearsals this week on Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:30 pm.
- **Oregon Synod Day of Learning** is this Saturday from 9:15am-3:45pm via Zoom! The theme this year is Faithful in the Fray: Facing our Histories of Racism.
  - Workshops and the keynote address will all be offered via Zoom. Look at faithfulness as it applies to faith and racism, with local leader and author Pr. Lenny Duncan, as keynote speaker. Here is a link with more information: <https://oregonsynodelca.regfox.com/2021-oregon-synod-day-of-learning>
  - We would love to encourage as many members to participate in this worthwhile event as possible! Registration closes this evening, and the cost of this event is \$50 per screen (not per individual). However, if the cost is prohibitive for you or your family, please contact Pastor Miranda to discuss alternative options.



1140 Tucker Rd. Hood River, OR 97031

541-386-3993

[www.hoodriverchurch.org](http://www.hoodriverchurch.org)

**Church Office Hours**

**Closed on Fridays**

**Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller**

M-W 9-12, or by appointment

[spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com)

**Jennifer Fowler, Office Assistant**

Mon 9:30-2, Wednesday 9:00-2, Thursday 9:00-2

[office@hoodriverchurch.com](mailto:office@hoodriverchurch.com)

**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**

Tuesday 10-1