

# Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



Worship  
September 26th, 2021  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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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.

Mysterious God, open our eyes and hearts to the unusual movements and blessings of your Spirit. Call us out of that which is comfortable and into that which is unknown, that we might follow your Spirit wherever it leads us in this world.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 (New Egalitarian Translation)

Soon the riffraff among them started complaining and whining, and Israelites said, “Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish we used to eat freely in Egypt, and the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic! But out here we’re wasting away; there is nothing here but manna for us to look at!”

...

Moses heard the people, family after family, wailing at the entrances of their tents, so much so that YHWH’s anger flared up again. Moses was so aggrieved, and said to God, “Why do you treat me this way? Are you so displeased with me that you must burden me with this whole nation? Was it I who conceived these people, was it I who gave birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them at your bosom, like a nurse with a baby at the breast, to the land that I swore to give their ancestors?’ Where am I to find meat to give these people, when they come to me weeping and saying, ‘Give us meat to eat?’ I cannot carry this nation alone! The weight is too much for me. If this is how you will deal with me, just allow me this one favor and kill me now! Spare me from seeing such misery as this!”

...

So Moses went and told the people what God had said. He gathered seventy elders and had them surround the Tent. YHWH came down in a cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the Spirit that was in Moses, God bestowed it on the seventy elders whom Moses had gathered there; and as the Spirit came to rest on them, they were seized with prophesying, and did not stop. Now two other elders, one named Eldad and the other named Medad, were not in the gathering, but had stayed behind in the camp. They had been summoned to the tent, but had not gone; yet the Spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp. When a youth came running to tell Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp,” Joshua, ben-Nun, who from youth had been Moses’ aid, cried, “Moses, stop them!” But Moses answered, “Are you jealous for my sake? If only all of God’s people were prophets! If only YHWH would bestow the Spirit on them all.”

Psalm 19:7-14

Your law, YHWH, is perfect;  
it refreshes the soul.

Your rule is to be trusted;  
it gives wisdom to the naive.

**Your purposes, O God, are right;  
they gladden the heart.**

**Your command is clear;  
it gives light to the eyes.**

Holding you in awe, YHWH, is purifying;  
it endures.

Your decrees are steadfast,  
and all of them are just.

**They are more precious than gold,  
than the purest of gold,  
and sweeter than honey,  
than honey fresh from the comb.**

In them your faithful people find instruction;  
there is great reward in keeping them.

**But who can detect one's own failings?**

**Forgive the misdeeds I don't even know about.**

Keep your faithful one from presumption as well,  
so that my faults will never control me.

Then I will be blameless,  
and innocent of grave error.

**May the words of my mouth  
and the thoughts of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight, YHWH,  
my rock and my redeemer!**

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to expel demons, and we tried to stop it since this person was not part of our group."

Jesus said in reply, "Don't try to stop it. No one who performs a miracle using my name can speak ill of me soon thereafter! Anyone who is not against us is with us. The truth is, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not go without reward.

"Rather than make one of these little ones who believe in me stumble, it would be better to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck.

"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It would be better to enter Life crippled than to have hands and go into Gehenna, where the fire never goes out. If your foot causes you

to sin, cut it off. It is better to enter Life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It would be better to enter the Kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be drawn into Gehenna, where 'the worm never dies and the fire never goes out.'

"Everyone will be salted with fire.

"Salt is good. But if it loses its flavor, how can you make it salty again?"

"Have salt in yourselves, and live in peace with one another."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: Awake, my Soul, and with the Sun - ELW 557, v1-4  
*The hymn of the day will be hummed only.*

A New Creed - Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

**We are not alone**

**we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,**

**the Word made flesh,**

**to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others**

**by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,**

**to live with respect in Creation,**

**to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

**our redeemer and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Joys & Concerns

*If you have any joys, concerns, or prayer requests to share, please type them into the comment section of the livestream so that we may lift them up together as a community.*

## Prayers of the People

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

*A brief silence.*

We pray for your Church and the many and various forms it takes in this world. Open our eyes and hearts to the unusual movements and blessings of your Spirit. Call us out of that which is comfortable and into that which is unknown, that we might be salt on this earth.

God, in your grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

As we enter the season of autumn and watch as the world changes around us, call us to be students of your creation. May the trees show us that there is beauty in change, and that new life cannot come forth without first releasing the old. May the animals teach us that there is a time to be busy and a time to be still. May the rain remind us of the nourishment you give us from above, washing our hearts and quenching our souls.

God, in your grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those affected by disasters in this country. For those fleeing from wildfires in the western states - for the relief efforts following the hurricanes and tropical storms throughout the country - for those from Haiti and Mexico seeking refuge after losing their safety and security to earthquakes. Call us to action, that we might be your presence to all in need.

God, in your grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Afghan people and all living there during this time of political turmoil and conflict. Give those in positions of leadership and authority wise minds and compassionate hearts. Call us to do whatever is within our power to aid the vulnerable and those seeking refuge and safety.

God, in your grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those suffering ailments of any kind - of the heart, mind, soul, and body. Bring comfort and peace to those who know pain and anxiety. Bring sustenance and support to those who give of themselves for those in need of care. Send your healing Spirit to rest upon the pain of this world.

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.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Together let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language you are most familiar with - 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.**

### Offering

#### Thanksgiving for the Word

O God of justice and love, receive these gifts we freely bring to you, and use these to do your work of caring for all of creation. We give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken our hearts to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

### Blessing

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.**

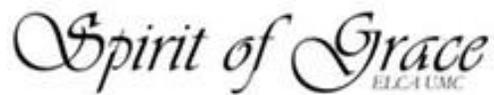
Sending Song: We All Are One In Mission - FWS 2243

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the body of Christ in this world.  
**We will! Thanks be to God.**

### Announcements

- The September/October edition of our **Newsletter** was sent out earlier this week, and has lots of important information! Be sure to take some time to read through it. If you haven't received a copy, it will be posted on our website and Facebook page later this week.
- Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, so we will be having **communion**. Additionally, it is also **World Communion Sunday**! This is a celebration Sunday each year in the UMC in which we participate in holy communion together and share our gifts to support racial-ethnic students and trainees in their quest to become leaders who embody the mission of The United Methodist Church. A special offering will be collected, and our music will emphasize our connection to the global church.
- Next Sunday we will also be having a **Blessing of the Animals** in honor of St. Francis of Assisi Day on October 4th! If you have a fluffy, furry, scaly, or feathered friend you would like included in this blessing, please email your pet's picture and name to Linda Boris (lindajboris@gmail.com) by **Monday, Sept. 27** for inclusion in a slide show during worship on that day.
- The Spirit of Grace **Board of Directors** will be meeting this week at 6:00pm on September 28th via Zoom.
- We need more volunteers who are willing to be trained on our **sound system and powerpoint**. It's not as daunting as it may appear - you could be trained on the system in as little as 30 minutes. If you are willing to help out, please talk to Pastor Miranda or Rick McBee.
- There is still time to join the **Reckoning with Racism cohort** that Spirit of Grace is participating in through Oregon Ecumenical Ministries! The cohort will meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month on Zoom for 1.5-2 hours from October - May. If you are at all interested in participating, please reach out to Pastor Miranda to learn more about this opportunity!



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**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