

# Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



Worship  
September 5th, 2021  
Fifteenth 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.

God of us all,

We rejoice and give thanks that you are One who hears the cries of your people and responds with compassion and abundance.

Grant us the courage to boldly ask for that which the world needs.

May we have the faith and trust in your divine power to turn impossibilities into realities right here, right now.

In the name of the Triune God,

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of us all, we pray.

**Amen.**

First Reading: James 2:1-10, 14-17

1 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? 2 For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, 3 and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7 Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

8 You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Psalm 146

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

2 **I will praise the Lord as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

3 Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

4 **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

**and in that day their thoughts perish.**

5 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

6 **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**

**who keeps promises forever;**

7 who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the captive free.

8 **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the Lord loves the righteous.**

9 The Lord cares for the stranger;

the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

10 **The Lord shall reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

24 [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, 25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." 28 But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." 29 Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." 30 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32 They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33 He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. 34 Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "*Ephphatha*," that is, "Be opened." 35 And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36 Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37 They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

## Sermon

Hymn of the Day: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy - ELW 587, v1, 2, 3  
*The hymn of the day will be hummed only.*

## 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

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

Holy One, you gather your people together in worship, in a variety of ways and a myriad of places. Enliven your church. Fill your people with the boldness of the Spirit, that we might go out together and speak your truth to power in this world.  
God, in your grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your creation sings as a testimony of your abundant life. As the effects of climate change continue to grow, empower us to be stewards, caretakers, and advocates for your earth once more. Protect those fleeing from natural disasters throughout our country, and inspire us to bring about real change.  
God, in your grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your message of justice and kingdom of love shows no partiality. Grant us the courage to boldly proclaim that which we know to be true and right, that we may inspire others to do likewise. As we celebrate Labor day, may we honor those whose everyday work gives life to our communities, and may we be advocates for the health, safety, dignity, and just treatment of workers everywhere.  
God, in your grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit abides with those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. We pray especially this day for the people of Afghanistan, and all those facing violence in their homes. May we open our hearts to refugees and be a source of your love for them in 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.**

#### Offering & Special Music

*“How Can I Keep From Singing”*

Leslie Bartlett, soloist

#### 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**]

... 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.**

### *Instructions for Communion*

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.**

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.**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sending Song: The Voice of God is Calling - UMH 436

## Announcements

- The church office will be closed on Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day.
- A Blessing for Students and Educators will be offered in worship next week, on September 12th.
- The Worship Planning Team will meet after worship on September 12th
- FISH Food Bank duty for Spirit of Grace will be on September 13th, 15th, and 17th. Contact Bette Yenne for more info.

*Spirit of Grace*  
ELCA UMC

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