

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



Worship
October 10th, 2021
Twentieth 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.

Radical God,

You call us to divest from the ways of the world and move toward your Kingdom of abundance, where all are truly free. Yet, we are held in bondage to the systems of our societies, complicit in the violence and exploitation. Through your son, Jesus Christ, free us from that which separates us from our neighbor, and call us into your radical community of liberation and love for all.

Amen.

First Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Seek YHWH and live!

Or else God will rush like a fire

on the House of Joseph,

and no one in Bethel will be able to put out the flames.

Ah, you who turn justice to wormwood,

and bring righteousness to the dust -

You hate the arbiter who sits at the city gate,

and detest the one who speaks the truth.

Rest assured: since you trampled on the poor,

extorting inhumane taxes on their grain,

those houses you built of hewn stone -

you will never live in them;

and those precious vineyards you planted -

you will never drink their wine,

For I have noted your many atrocities,

and your countless sins,

you persecutors of the righteous,

you bribe takers,

you who deny justice

to the needy at the gate!

That is why the prosperous moan in times like this,

for such times bring disaster.

Seek good and not evil, so that you may live,

and so that YHWH God Omnipotent

may truly be with you as you have been claiming.

Hate what is evil, and love what is good;

maintain justice at the city gate,

and may it be that YHWH God Omnipotent

will take pity on the remnant of Joseph.

Psalm 90:12-17

Make us realize how short life is
that we may gain wisdom of heart

YHWH, relent!
How long before you have mercy
on your faithful ones?

When morning comes, fill us with your love,
and we will celebrate all our days.

Give us your joy for as many days as you afflicted us,
for as many years as we knew misfortune!

Let your work be seen by your faithful,
your glory be witnessed by their children.

Let YHWH's favor be upon us!
Grant success to the work of our hands,
success to the work of our hands!

Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, someone came running up and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: No killing. No committing adultery. No stealing. No bearing false witness. No defrauding. Honor your mother and father." The other replied, "Teacher, I have kept all of these since my childhood."

Then Jesus looked at the person with love and said, "There is one thing more you must do. Go and sell what you have and give it to those in need; you will then have treasure in heaven. After that, come and follow me."

At these words, the inquirer, who owned much property, became crestfallen and went away sadly.

Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, "How hard it is for rich people to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples could only marvel at these words. So Jesus repeated what he had said: "My children, how hard it is to enter the realm of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at this and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible - but not for God. With God all things are possible."

Peter was moved to say to Jesus, "We have left everything to follow you!"

Jesus answered, "The truth is, there is no one who has left home, sisters or brothers, mother or father, children or fields for me and for the sake of the gospel who won't receive as much in this present age - as many homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, children and property, though not without persecution - and, in the age to come, everlasting life.

Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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

Sermon

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day: They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love - FWS 2223
The hymn of the day will be hummed only.

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

Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together:

**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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Uniting God, you long for us to be together, and your heart breaks at that which tears us apart from one another. Draw us together into community, and strengthen us to support and care for each other, that all may dwell in the beauty of mutual interdependence that you call us to embody here on earth.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. As the harvest season continues, increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Protect workers from the elements and keep them safe in all that they do.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain local ministries that offer food, clothing, shelter, and community.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those systems, ways, and things that are no longer beneficial to us all, and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this community.

God, in your grace,

Hear our prayer.

Abiding God, you provide healing for our bodies and comfort for our souls. Be with all those in our community in need of such divine healing and comfort. We pray especially this day for Bessie Asai, who suffered a heart attack earlier this week and has returned home in Hospice care. Send your spirit to comfort and abide with her and her family during this time of transition. We pray also for all struggling with COVID-19, as the cases in our community continue to rise.

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 & Special Music

“Lord Whose Love”

Sharon Poynter, Recorder

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: Take My Life That I May Be - ELW 583

Dismissal

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

- Tomorrow is Indigenous People's Day. There is a section in our newsletter for this month highlighting some ways that you can honor the history and heritage of native people and communities today. There will also be posts on our Facebook page tomorrow offering some reflections and prayers for this day.
- We will be sending out a Membership Inventory and Engagement Survey in the next couple of weeks - be sure to keep an eye on your inbox.
- Our new regular deadline for newsletter submissions will be the fourth Monday of every month. That means that the deadline for submissions to the November newsletter will be October 25th.
- The Finance Committee meets this week on Tuesday at 6pm here at the church building.
- Next week is the third Sunday of the month, and will be a service of Holy Communion.
- The Staff Parish Relations Committee will meet next Sunday following worship.

Spirit of Grace
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Church Office Hours

Closed on Fridays

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M-W 9-12, or by appointment

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Tuesday 10-1