

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



April 24th , 2022  
*Second Sunday of Easter*  
*Abuse Prevention & Awareness Sunday*

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Prelude

Welcome

A Call to Peace in Times of Violence

Oh Divine,  
**most mighty, most merciful, our sacred stories tell us  
that you help and save your people.**  
**You are the fortress: may there be no more war.**  
**You are the harvest: may there be no more hunger.**  
**You are the light: may no one die alone or in despair.**  
**Oh Divine, most majestic, most motherly, grant us your life. Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Call to Worship

Come praise God the Creator who made each child in God's image!  
**We will praise our Creator by recognizing each child's sacred worth.**  
Come praise the Christ who blessed the children!  
**We will praise Christ by being a blessing to children in need.**  
Come praise God the Holy Spirit who moves among us!  
**We will praise the Holy Spirit by working for justice.**  
Come praise the Triune God who created us, redeemed us, and sustains us!  
**We will praise God by putting our faith into action to seek justice for  
children.**

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism,  
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,  
and we are a new creation.  
For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life,  
flowing freely from your throne:  
through the earth,  
through the city,  
through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;  
You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.  
Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,  
and our sin is drowned forever.  
You open the gate of righteousness  
and we pass safely through.

In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.  
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.  
You call us forth and send us out.  
In lush and barren places, you are with us.  
You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water  
and awaken your church once more.  
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.  
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

To you, our Beginning and our End,  
our Shepherd and Lamb,  
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,  
now and forever.  
**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.

Living God, you are here among us and within us in the midst of whatever is ailing us. As Jesus reached out and touched the lives of those who gathered around him, may we also reach out in love to you and to each other. Open our lives in this worship to the indwelling power of your Spirit. To you be all glory for now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 5:27-32

The apostles were taken before the Sanhedrin, and the high priest began to interrogate them: "We gave you strict orders not to teach about that name, yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching – and you're determined to make us responsible for this Jesus' blood."

To this, Peter and the apostles replied, "Better for us to obey God than people! The God of our ancestors has raised Jesus, whom you put to death by hanging him on a tree. This One, who has been exalted to God's right hand as Ruler and Savior, is to bring repentance and the forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are eyewitnesses to this. And so is the Holy Spirit, who has been given to those who obey God."

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading: Psalm 118:14-29

God is my strength and my song;

God has become my salvation!

**Raise shouts of joy and victory**

**in the tents of the upright:**

**YHWH's right hand is doing mighty acts!**

YHWH's right hand is winning:

YHWH's right hand is doing mighty acts!

**No, I will not die –**  
**I will live to proclaim the deeds of YHWH;**  
though YHWH has disciplined me often.  
I am not abandoned to Death.  
**Open the gates of justice for me,**  
**let me come in and thank you, YHWH!**  
This is the gate of YHWH  
and only the upright can enter!  
**Thank you for hearing me,**  
**for saving me.**  
It was the stone which the builders rejected  
that became the keystone;  
**this is YHWH's doing,**  
**and it is wonderful to see.**  
This is the day YHWH has made –  
let us celebrate with joy!

**Please, YHWH, please save us!**  
**Please, YHWH, give us prosperity now!**  
Blessings on the one who comes in the Name of YHWH!  
We bless you from YHWH's Temple!  
**YHWH is God**  
**and God has enlightened us.**  
**Join the festal procession!**  
**With palm fronds in hand,**  
**go up to the horns of the altar!**  
You are my God, and I thank you;  
Thank you for hearing me,  
for saving me.  
**Thank you, YHWH, for your goodness!**  
**Your love is everlasting!**

Word of God, Word of Life  
**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th chapter.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God has sent me, so I'm sending you."

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said,

"Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven.

If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas – nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin" – was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!"

Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!"

Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!"

Jesus then said,

"You've become a believer

because you saw me.

Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs as well – signs not recorded here – in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' name.

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Lydia Henry  
*Lay Leader – Columbia District, UMC*  
*Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator – Oregon-Idaho Conference, UMC*

Hymn of the Day

Sacred the Body – FWS #2228  
verses 1-4

Prayer of Confession & Reconciliation

God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize  
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,  
soothe restless hearts with hope,  
steady shaken spirits with faith:  
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,  
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people's wounds  
and transform our brokenness.  
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace  
so that we may act with justice and find peace in you.  
In the name of Christ our healer we pray.  
Amen.

## Words of Assurance

*In the words of Ann Weems:*

Hurting, they came to him.  
Healed, they followed him.  
Grateful, they gave to him what they had, what they were.  
Blessed, they became a blessing  
and went out to all the world in his name.

Those who are hurt  
and healed  
grateful  
and blessed  
still move among us  
in his name.  
Amen.

## Affirmation of Faith

*Group 1: We believe that beyond the violence*

**Group 2: there can be love;**

*Group 1: That beyond the despair,*

**Group 2: there can be hope;**

*Group 1: That beyond the torment,*

**Group 2: we will find rest;**

*Group 1: That beyond our brokenness,*

**Group 2: there can be healing;**

*Group 1: That beyond our agony,*

**Group 2: We will find joy.**

**All: Oh God, transform our disbelief  
and gently carry us from darkness to light.**

## 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

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God, we pray for survivors of sexual abuse. We pray for healing. We pray for deep comfort. We pray that you will restore what has been stolen and broken. While you do not alter history, you reveal your love in the present and the future. What seems hopelessly shattered, in you can be redeemed. We turn to you and cry out for help and healing.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of peace, we pray for victims of war and violence across the world. Guide and protect those who stand with the vulnerable and advocate for the oppression. Send your Spirit to show us how to turn swords into plowshares, that nations might work together to create a culture of peace.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## Dedication & Blessing of Quilts

*Invite Dottie or Bette Lou up to say a few words about the quilts, the work that has gone into them, and where they will be sent to.*

As we bless these quilts and prepare to send them out to be sources of God's comfort in this weary world, I invite you all to raise your hands towards a quilt near you and join me in this litany of dedication.

God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your comforting Spirit moves in big and small ways, bearing whispers of hope to all your children. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.

**Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.**

God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and all other materials that have gone into these quilts – small things that have been brought together and transformed into something new. We ask that you bless these quilts among us today. May their presence be a sign of hope, and may these quilts wrap our neighbors in your unending love.

**Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.**

God, we give thanks for each and every hand that helped to fashion hope into a quilt – for the hands that sewed and tied – the hands that cut and ironed – the hands that poured your love into every seam and stitch. May the work of these hands inspire us all to be sources of love and hope in this world.

**Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.**

God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at Lutheran World Relief. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope for those who need it most. Keep them safe and sustain them in their work with your strength and perseverance.

**Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.**

God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May these quilts wrap them in a blanket of your love, that they might see and feel tangible signs of your hope and presence in this world. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our siblings in Christ. We pray all this in the name of the risen Christ, who is our life and our hope.

**Amen**

Offering

*At this time, if you are willing and able, please consider giving to Spirit of Grace Church to support our ongoing ministry.*

*Checks can be mailed to 1140 Tucker Road, Hood River OR, 97031.*

*Online Donations can be made through the link below:*

[Spirit of Grace Church](#)

## Litany of Commitment

God did not call us to succeed,  
**God called us to serve.**  
God did not call us to win,  
**God called us to work.**  
God did not call us to live long,  
**God called us to live for God.**  
God did not call us to be happy,  
**God called us to be hopeful.**  
God did not call us to fame,  
**God called us to faith.**  
God did not call us to seek power,  
**God called us to seek peace.**  
God did not call us to loot the earth and each other,  
**God called us to love our earth and each other.**  
**Amen.**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, 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.**

## **Announcements**

Sending Song:

Thine is the Glory – ELW 376  
*verses 1-3*

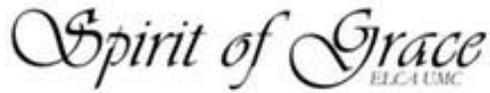
## **Benediction**

Go forth to answer God's call;  
Go forth to protect the vulnerable;  
Go forth to pursue justice.

Now may the blessing of God who calls us,  
of Christ who welcomed the children and vulnerable into his protective embrace,  
and of the Spirit who moves in and through us as we work for justice  
be with you and every child of God now and forever more. Amen

## **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Proclaim what God has done.  
**Thanks be to God!**



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**Church Office Hours**

**Closed on Fridays**

**Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller**

M-W 9-12, or by appointment

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**Jennifer Fowler, Office Assistant**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00-2

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**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**

Tuesday 10-1

**Attributions**

*This worship service was compiled and based off of Worship Resources for Oregon-Idaho Churches for Abuse Prevention Sunday by Rev. Roberta J Egli – originally created for the 2013 observance.*

Call to Worship – Adapted by Rev. Roberta J Egli from 2012 National Observance Children’s Sabbath Manual

Prayer of the Day – Rev. Roberta J Egli

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Benediction – Adapted from 2012 National Observance Children’s Sabbath Manual.