

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



April 3rd , 2022
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome

An Interfaith Call to Peace for Ukraine

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

The Holy One does great things for us!
Like water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert,
God meets us in times of trial.
Like the companionship of our closest friends,
God goes alongside us.
Like the satisfaction that comes after feasting at table,
God nourishes us on the journey.
With joy, let us seek the way of Love, trusting in the promises of God.

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage
Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

**Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, \mp God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.
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.

Holy God, you sent your son, Jesus Christ, to do a new thing and teach us the way of Abundant Life. Help us to throw off the chains of scarcity that the world has placed on us, and lead us into a life of abundant freedom; a collective, collaborative life in which the needs of all are met, and no being is left behind. With the heart of Christ and the breath of the Spirit, we pray. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says YHWH,
who made a road through the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who led chariots and warriors to their doom,
a mighty army fallen, never to rise again,
snuffed out and extinguished like a wick:
“Forget the events of the past,
ignore the things of long ago!
Look, I am doing something new!
Now it springs forth – can’t you see it?
I’m making a road in the desert
and setting rivers to flow in the wasteland.
Wild beasts will honor me –
the jackals and the ostriches –
for I will put water in the desert
and rivers in the wasteland
for my chosen people to drink,
these people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

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

Psalm 126

When the Divine Lover enters the
human heart,
all yearnings are fulfilled!
**Then will our mouths ring forth
with laughter, and
our tongues with shouts of joy;**

Then will we sing our songs of praise,
to you, O Beloved of all hearts.
**For gladness will radiate out for
all to see;
so great is your Presence
among us.**

Restore us to wholeness, O Healer,
like newborn babes who have
never strayed from You!

**May all who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy!**

May all who go forth weeping tears
of repentance, bearing
seeds of Love,

**Come home to You with shouts
of joy,
leaving sorrow behind.**

Gospel: John 12:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John the 12th chapter.

Six days before Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, the village of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they gave a banquet in Jesus' honor, at which Martha served. Lazarus was one of those at the table. Mary brought a pound of costly ointment, pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair. The house was full of the scent of the ointment.

Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples – the one who was to betray Jesus – protested, “Why wasn’t this ointment sold? It could have brought nearly a year’s wages, and the money been given to poor people!” Judas didn’t say this because he was concerned for poor people, but because he was a thief. He was in charge of the common fund, and would help himself to it.

So Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You have poor people with you always. But you won’t always have me.”

Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - UMH 298
verses 1, 3, 4

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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place,
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

Do a new thing in the church. Free us from paradigms that no longer serve the gospel and bring forward leaders who imagine fresh ways of doing ministry. Give us courage in the face of change.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Do a new thing for creation. Reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe. Revive habitats already impaired by human disregard. Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Do a new thing within us. Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience. Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued. Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Hear the cries of those in distress. Send your Spirit of comfort and peace to hold them close and keep them safe. We especially pray for all those who suffer as victims of war and violence across the world. Grant protection to those in Ukraine and surrounding areas, and guide world leaders in their peace-making efforts.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place,
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Offering & Offertory Music

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](#)

In this time of global crisis, please also consider giving to either of these disaster response organizations as they direct their efforts towards those in Ukraine and Eastern Europe:

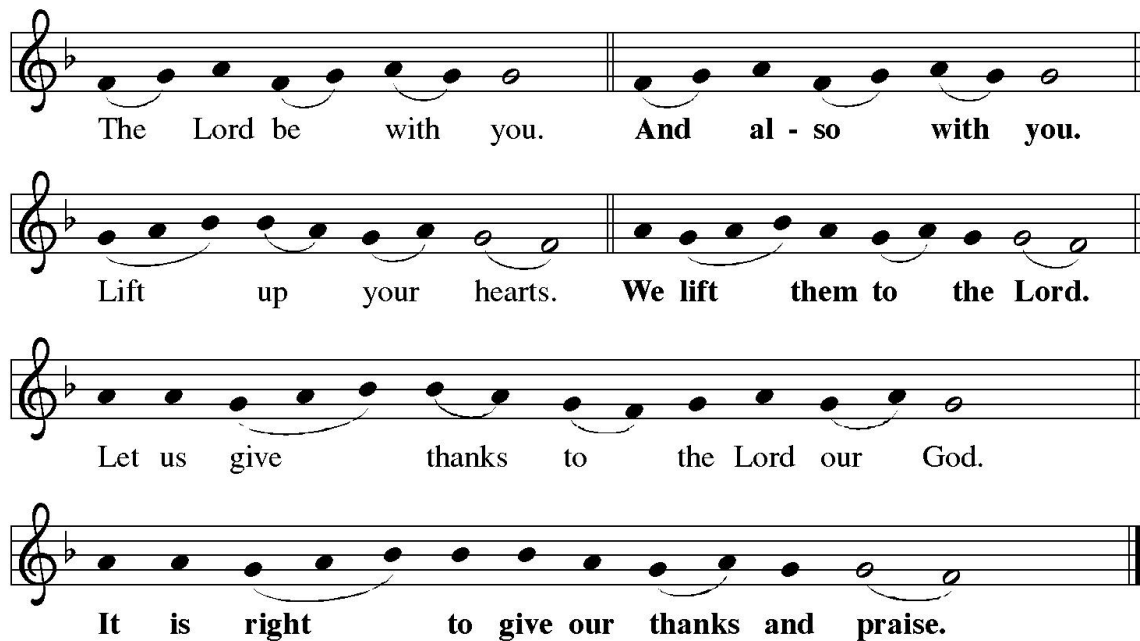
[Lutheran Disaster Response, Eastern Europe Crisis Response](#)

[UMCOR, International Disaster Response and Recovery](#)

Offering Prayer

Extravagant God,
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast
where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...

...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command...

...To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forevermore.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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**

Instructions for Communion

First and foremost, this is Christ's table, and no human can place a barrier before it. All are welcome at this feast of abundance, regardless of age, faith, or any other human distinction.

Ushers will dismiss you by row, starting with one side of the sanctuary before moving on to the other. Come forward through the center aisle and return to your seat via the outer aisle. If you wish to receive communion from your seat, please let an usher know so that we may serve you accordingly.

As you come forward, we ask that you keep your mask on, and only briefly remove or lift it to receive the elements. You may also choose to bring them with you back to your seat.

We have bread and gluten free wafers available as well as both wine and grape juice. The wine is the red liquid and the grape juice is the clear.

If you do not wish to receive communion, you may either stay in your seat and use this time for contemplation and meditation, or you may come forward to receive a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms in front of your chest to make your desire known.

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

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.
Amen.

Announcements (see end of worship bulletin)

Sending Song:

Take My Life That I May Be – ELW 583
verses 1, 3, 4

Blessing

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC

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Church Office Hours

Closed on Fridays

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

M-W 9-12, or by appointment

spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

Jennifer Fowler, Office Assistant

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

office@hoodriverchurch.com

Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant

Tuesday 10-1

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Announcements

Happy Hands will start gathering again in the Fellowship Hall on April 4 at 10am.

Grounding - Midweek Lenten Worship & Study

On Wednesdays in Lent, beginning March 9th, we gather on Zoom at 6:30pm for a time of worship and study. We will begin with midweek worship using the Holden Evening Prayer service by Marty Haugen. Following the service, those who choose to stay can participate in a time of study using the book "A Grounded Faith: Reconnecting with Creator and Creation in the Season of Lent."

Directory Photos

We are ready for the next step in the process for our updated directory - photos! Gordon will be here at church to take photos on April 10th and April 24th following worship. If you can't make it to either of those services, but would still like your photo to appear in the directory, you can contact Gordon to set up a separate time to do so.

Holy Week & Easter

The Easter resurrection will be here before we know it!

- For Palm Sunday (April 10th) and Easter Sunday (April 17th), we will have our usual service at 10am. There will be a special time of fellowship on Easter Sunday at 9am.
- For Maundy Thursday, we will host a **Dinner Church Service at 6:00pm** in the Sanctuary. The service will begin with the washing of feet and hands for those who choose to participate. Worship will continue at the dinner table, as we share a simple meal of soup and bread before receiving Communion from one another, remembering the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples. The service will conclude with the traditional stripping of the altar.
- There will not be a formal Good Friday service, but the church will be open and Pastor Miranda will be available from 11am-1pm for anyone who wants to come for prayer and contemplation.

Sign-up Sheets

There are several sign-up sheets in the Narthex that need your attention!

- Bringing Soup and Bread to Maundy Thursday Dinner Church
- Volunteering to help strip the altar on Maundy Thursday and reset it on Easter Sunday
- Ordering altar flowers for Easter Sunday
- Bringing food and drink to our Easter Fellowship hour