

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



May 1st , 2022
Third Sunday of Easter

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

God of Unfolding
God of Becoming
God of Transforming
God of Revelation
God of Revolution
Ancient God of Beginning Again:
We celebrate your Creative and Creating Love!
Lead us in Your ways of Expansive Life.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

As we give thanks for the promise and gift of baptism, you are invited to dip your hands into the water in your bowl and remember your own baptismal promise and identity

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.

God of transformation, you have given us a living faith, constantly revealing yourself to us in new and unexpected ways. Help us to open our eyes and hearts to the movements of your Spirit in this world, that we may always follow in your Word and your Way.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile, Saul continued to breathe murderous threats against the disciples of Jesus. He had gone up to the high priest and asked for letters, addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, that would authorize him to arrest and take to Jerusalem any followers of the Way that he could find, both men and women.

As he traveled along and was approaching Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed about him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

"Who are you?" Saul asked.

The voice answered, "I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me. Get up now and go into the city, where you will be told what to do." Those traveling with him were speechless. They heard the voice, but could see no one.

Saul got up from the ground unable to see, even though his eyes were open. They had to take him by the hand and lead him to Damascus. For three days he continued to be blind, during which time he ate and drank nothing.

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. Christ appeared to him in a vision, saying, "Ananias."

Ananias said, "Here I am."

Then Christ said to him, "Go at once to Straight Street, and at the house of Judah ask for a certain Saul of Tarsus. He is there praying. Saul had a vision that a man named Ananias will come and lay hands on him so that he would recover his sight."

But Ananias protested, "I have heard from many sources about Saul and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. He is here now with authorization from the chief priests to arrest everybody who calls on your name."

Christ said to Ananias, "Go anyway. Saul is the instrument I have chosen to bring my Name to Gentiles, to rulers, and to people of Israel. I myself will show him how much he will have to suffer for my name."

With that, Ananias left. When he entered the house, he laid his hands on Saul, saying, "Saul, my brother, I have been sent by Jesus Christ, who appeared to you on the way here, to help you recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. He got up and was baptized, and his strength returned after he had eaten some food.

Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days, and soon began proclaiming in the synagogues that Jesus was the Only Begotten of God.

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

Psalm 30

I praise you, O God, because you raised me up
and kept my enemies from gloating over me.

**I cried to you for help, YHWH my God,
and you healed me.**

You brought me back from the realm of the dead, YHWH;
you spared me from going down into the Pit.

Sing to YHWH, you who love God!

Praise God's holy Name!

YHWH's anger is fleeting,
but God's favor endures forever.

There may be tears during the night,
but joy comes in the morning.

**When I presumed I was secure, I boasted,
"I will never be defeated!"**

When I stood in your favor, YHWH,
I stood as firm as a mountain.

But then you hid yourself from me,
and I was filled with terror.

So I called to you, YHWH,

I pleaded for your help:

"What good will come from my destruction,
from my going to the grave?

Does dust praise you, YHWH?

Can the dead proclaim your unfailing goodness?

**Hear me, YHWH, and be merciful!
Help me, YHWH!"**

Then you changed my despair into a dance –
you stripped me of my death shroud
and clothed me with joy.

**That's why my heart sings to you,
that's why I can't keep silent –
YHWH, you are my God,
and I will thank you forever!**

Gospel: John 21:1-19

The Holy Gospel according to John the 21st chapter.

Later Jesus again was manifested to the disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how the appearance took place.

Assembled were Simon Peter, Thomas "the Twin," Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's children, and two other disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I'm going out to fish."

"We'll join you," they replied, and went off to get into their boat.

All through the night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore, though none of the disciples knew it was Jesus. He said to them

"Have you caught anything, friends?"

"Not a thing," they answered.

"Cast your net off to the starboard side," Jesus suggested, "and you'll find something."

So they made a cast and caught so many fish that they couldn't haul the net in.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, "It's the Teacher!"

Upon hearing this, Simon Peter threw on his cloak – he was naked – and jumped into the water.

Meanwhile the other disciple brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish.

They were not far from land – no more than a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread already being grilled.

"Bring some of the fish you just caught," Jesus told them. Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, which was loaded with huge fish – one hundred fifty-three of them. In spite of the great number, the net was not torn.

"Come and eat your meal," Jesus told them.

None of the disciples dared to ask, "Who are you?" – they knew it was the savior.

Jesus came over, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This marked the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had eaten their meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon ben-John, do you love me more than these?”

Peter said, “Yes, Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

A second time Jesus put the question, “Simon ben-John, do you love me?”

Peter said, “Yes Rabbi, you know that I’m your friend.”

Jesus replied, “Tend my sheep.”

A third time Jesus asked him, “Simon ben-John, do you love me as a friend would?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him, “Do you love me?” a third time. So he said, “You know everything, Rabbi. You know that I am your friend.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

The truth of the matter is,
when you were young,
you put on your own bent
and walked where you liked;
but when you get old,
you will stretch out your hands
and someone else will put a belt around you
and take you where you don’t want to go.”

With these words, Jesus indicated the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Then the savior said, “Follow me.”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Open Our Eyes – FFWS 2086
sung through 3 times

Affirmation of Faith – Apostles Creed

Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together using the words of our common creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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

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 of new beginnings, fill us with new life. Send us into the world as you sent your apostles Philip and James, to invite people to come and see your wondrous acts in Christ.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Revive ecosystems along coastlands that have been devastated by natural forces and human negligence. Reestablish plant and animal life that purifies air and water and that feeds humans and other living creatures.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Accompany laborers who get little rest from their work. Give them hope when they struggle to produce what they need. Give all who labor fair treatment and just wages.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Restore all people who cry to you for help (especially). Turn their mourning into dancing, clothe them with joy, and put a testimony of healing and praise on their lips.

God in your mercy,
hear 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.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

*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](#)

Offering Prayer

Living God,
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your reign of peace,
and you welcome us all at your table.
Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body,
that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Holy Communion

Preface - TFWS 2257-a

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey,
and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus - TFWS 2257-b

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
By your great mercy we have been born anew
to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead
and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.
Once we were no people, but now we are your people,
declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ,
who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.
When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead
he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,
and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Memorial Acclamation - TFWS 2257-c

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Great Amen - TFWS 2257-d

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.**

Communion Instructions

Invitation to the Table

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

We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Announcements

Sending Song:

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing – ELW 389
verses 1, 3, 4

Blessing

God, the Author of life,
Christ, the living Cornerstone,
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
‡ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

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

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC

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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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