

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



May 29th , 2022
Ascension of Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome

A Gun Violence Litany

Today we remember
those who have died by gun violence,
those who have survived gun violence,
those who mourn deaths of family and friends by gun violence.
Aching with sorrow
we grieve this pain and death that surrounds and fills us.

Today we remember mass killings in places of prayer,
in synagogues, mosques, and churches.
Rejecting the viciousness
we give ourselves to one another in love and care.

Today we remember deaths and fears of death rampant
in schools, homes, and workplaces.
Marching for their lives, young people awaken us to action.
Listening at last
**we rise up to face the horror;
we confess ourselves complicit.**

Let us pray together.
Forgive, O God, our wrongful action and our inaction.
Forgive our silence and indifference.
Lead us in love, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**May God who is our hope
inscribe our hearts with justice
and guide us in the ways of peace.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Call to Worship

Please stand as you are able as we join together in our call to worship.

In the dying and rising of Jesus Christ, we too have been given new life –
The Spirit of God is alive within us!

Though Christ has ascended, we know we are not alone –
The Spirit of God is alive within us!

May this Spirit be an active presence in our lives,
Honoring the life of Christ in our every thought, word, and deed.
Alleluia - thanks be to God!

Thanksgiving for Baptism (*led in front of the baptismal font*)

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.

Water is poured from the pitcher into the font

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.

Opening Hymn

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name - UMH 154
verses 1, 4, 6

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.

Almighty God of love, you called your Beloved home to heaven, that we might have the chance to live out the way of Jesus and continue his work and his teachings here on your earth. When the way seems uncertain, remind us that Christ still abides with us through the everlasting presence of the Spirit. It is in the name of your Son, our savior, teacher, and friend, we pray.

Amen.

You may be seated.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier account, Theophilus, I dealt with everything that Jesus had done and taught, from the beginning until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After the Passion, Jesus appeared alive to the apostles – confirmed through many convincing proofs – over the course of forty days, and spoke to them about the reign of God.

On one occasion, Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem. “Wait, rather, for what God has promised, of which you have heard me speak,” Jesus said. “John baptized you with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” While meeting together they asked, “Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?”

Jesus replied, “It’s not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight. They were still gazing up toward the heavens when two messengers dressed in white stood beside them. “You Galileans – why are you standing here looking up at the skies?” they asked. “Jesus, who has been taken from you – this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven.”

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 47

People everywhere – clap your hands!
Shout to God with a joyful voice!
**For YHWH Most High is awe-inspiring,
the great Ruler over the whole earth.**
God subdues peoples for us,
and puts the nations under our feet.
**God chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Leah, Rachel, and Jacob,
the object of God’s love.**
God ascended the throne with a shout,
with trumpet blasts!
**Sing praise to God, sing praise!
Sing praise to our Ruler, sing praise!**
For God rules over all the earth –
sing praise and understand!

**God rules over the nations;
God sits on the throne of holiness.**

World leaders are gathered,
and so are the people of Sarah and Abraham's God,
for YHWH reigns over all the earth,
and is exalted above all.

Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24th chapter

Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the psalms had to be fulfilled."

Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, "That is why the scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah's name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all this.

"Take note: I am sending forth what Abba God has promised to you. Remain here in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high."

Then Jesus took them to the outskirts of Bethany, and with upraised hands blessed the disciples. While blessing them, the savior left them and was carried up to heaven. The disciples worshiped the risen Christ and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. They were found in the Temple constantly, speaking praises of God.

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise – UMH 312
verses 1, 3, 4

Affirmation of Faith – Apostles Creed

Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together using the words of the Apostles 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.**

You may be seated.

Joys & Concerns

Now is the time in our service for us to share our joys and concerns with one another. If you have something to share with the community, please raise your hand and an usher will bring the microphone to you. Please stand if you are able when sharing so all can see who is speaking. You are invited to end your time sharing by saying either "This is my joy" or "This is my concern" and the community will respond likewise.

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, ruler of heaven and earth, wash us in your Holy Spirit and make us witnesses to your resurrected life in this community. Let our fellowship be a sign to others of the presence of Christ.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Through thundering, mighty waters reveal your creative power at work in creation. Cleanse the air, land, and waters with the movement of your Spirit and the participation of your people.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In faithful and diverse worship, turn all people toward you and your loving will for humankind. Bridge differences among traditions and across faiths. Unite us in mission for the sake of a world in need.

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 oppressed. 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.

God of resurrection, we remember before you those who have died unjustly in mass shootings across the country. We hold in our hearts the victims and communities of Milwaukie, Buffalo, Palo Alto, Laguna Beach, and Chicago.

Most recently, we remember the lives taken from us at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, and the families who mourn their loss. We commend these innocent children and teachers to your eternal love.

Grant healing and wholeness to the survivors who are wounded or traumatized, and restore all whose spirits are maimed by such violence. Watch over this community that will henceforth never be the same. That we may serve as your arms of care to those in distress, we pray that you make us instruments of your 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

You are invited to use this time to either bring your offering to the back of the sanctuary, make an online donation through our website or the QR code in your bulletin, or meditate on how God is calling you to give of yourself to your church and your community.

[Give Online to Support the Ministry of Spirit of Grace](#)

Thanksgiving for the Word

In lieu of communion this morning, we offer our praise and thanksgiving for the Word of God given to us this day.

O God of justice and love, 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 us 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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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:

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus – ELW 392
verses 1, 3, 5

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!

*All are invited to join us outside after worship as we gather together to bless
the Spirit of Grace/FISH Food Bank Garden for the growing season!*

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC

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Attributions

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