



May 8th , 2022  
*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

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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

All who are weary or heavy-laden, come and dwell in the presence of God.  
**We come with our grief, our anger, our fear, and our doubt**  
**trusting all is welcome here.**  
All who hunger for justice, the risen Christ calls, “come and follow!”  
**We come to hear and proclaim the Good News that sets us free.**  
All who believe that Love is yet alive, come and feel the Spirit stirring.  
**We come, open to the miraculous and unexpected.**  
God has gathered us in that we might be renewed together.  
**Let us worship with thanks and praise!**

## 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.**

Opening Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand – ELW 773  
*verses 1, 2, 3*

## 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.

Triune God, our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end – your Holy Scriptures tell us that you help and save your people throughout the ages. Send your Spirit to dwell among us, in this time and place, that our eyes might be opened to your way of life-giving liberation for all. In the name of Jesus, your Son, the Good Shepherd, we pray.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

After that, I saw before me an immense crowd without number, from every nation, tribe, people, and language. They stood in front of the throne and the Lamb, dressed in long white robes and holding palm branches. And they cried out in a loud voice,

“Salvation is of our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and of the lamb!”

All the angels who were encircling the throne, as well as the elders and the four living creatures, prostrated themselves before the throne. They worshiped God with these words: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen!”

Then one of the elders asked me, “These people in white robes – who are they, and where do they come from?”

I answered, “You are the one who knows.” Then the elder said to me, “These are the ones who survived the great period of testing; they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. That’s why they stand before God’s throne and the One they serve day and night in the Temple; the One who sits on the throne will shelter them forever. Never again will they be hungry or thirsty; the sun and its scorching heat will never beat down on them, for the Lamb, who is at the center of the throne, will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe every last tear from their eyes.”

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

YHWH, you are my shepherd –  
I want nothing more.  
**You let me lie down in green meadows;**  
**you lead me beside restful waters:**  
you refresh my soul.  
You guide me in lush pastures  
for the sake of your Name.  
**Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,**  
**I fear no danger, for you are with me.**  
**Your rod and your staff –**  
**they give me courage.**  
You spread a table for me  
in the presence of my enemies,  
and you anoint my head with oil –  
my cup overflows!  
**Only goodness and love will follow me**  
**all the days of my life,**  
**and I will dwell in your house, YHWH,**  
**for days without end.**

## Gospel: John 10:22-30

The Holy Gospel according to John the 10th chapter.

The time came for Hanukkah, the Feast of the Dedication, in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the Temple area, in Solomon's Porch, when the Temple authorities surrounded him and said, "How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you really are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus replied,

"I did tell you,  
but you don't believe.  
The work I do in my Abba's name  
gives witness in my favor,  
but you don't believe  
because you're not my sheep.  
My sheep hear my voice.  
I know them, and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life,  
and they will never be lost.  
No one will ever  
snatch them from my hand.  
Abba God, who gave them to me, is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal them from Abba God.  
For Abba and I are One.”

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us – UMH 381  
verses 1, 2, 4

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 concieved 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.*

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things.

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing.

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives.

God in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation. Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes

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.**

*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](#)*

## Thanksgiving for the Word

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:

Marching to Zion – UMH 733

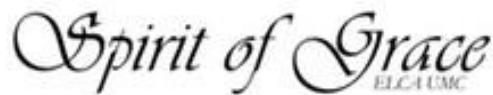
*verses 1, 3, 4*

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!**



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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

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