

# Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



June 26th, 2022  
*Third Sunday after Pentecost*

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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

Liberating God, you set us free  
to live a life ripe with the fruits of the Spirit.

**Not fear, but love, joy, and peace.**  
Not exploitation, but patience, kindness, and goodness.  
**Not knee-jerk reactions, but faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

With the Spirit as our guide,  
**we nurture the Ways of Life.**

## Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we have not followed your path  
but have chosen our own way.  
Instead of putting others before ourselves,  
we long to take the best seats at the table.  
When met by those in need,  
we have too often passed by on the other side.  
Set us again on the path of life.  
Save us from ourselves  
and free us to love our neighbors.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins  
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

**Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

Lead Me, Guide Me – ELW 768  
*verses 1 and 2*

## 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.

Creative God, sometimes fear and old habits limit our sense of what's possible.  
Expand our imagination, that we might live into the abundance you intend for all  
of us. Guide us towards not a shallow freedom, oh God, but into deep wells of  
liberation.

**Amen.**

First Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

When Christ has freed us, we were meant to remain free. Stand firm, therefore, and don't submit to the yoke of slavery a second time!

My sisters and brothers, you were called to freedom; but be careful, or this freedom will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Rather, serve one another in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarized in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you go on snapping at one another and tearing each other to pieces, be careful, or you may end up destroying the whole community.

Let me put it this way: if you are guided by the Spirit, you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence. Since our flesh is at odds with the Spirits – and the Spirit with our flesh – the two are so opposed that you cannot do whatever you feel like doing. If you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

It's obvious what proceeds from the flesh: lewd conduct, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, arguments, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish rivalries, dissension, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies and so forth. I warn you as I have warned you before: those who do these sorts of things won't inherit the kingdom of God!

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against these sorts of things there is no law! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their ego, with its passions and desires. So since we live by the Spirit, let us follow her lead.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16

O God, keep me safe –  
you are my refuge!  
**I said to YHWH, “You are my God;  
there is nothing good for me apart from you.”**

The holy people of my land are wonderful!  
My greatest pleasure is to be with them.  
**But those who rush after other gods  
will bring many troubles upon themselves.  
I will not take part in their sacrifices;  
I won’t even speak the names of their gods.**

You, YHWH, are all that I have,  
you are my food and drink.  
My life is safe in your hands.  
**Within the boundaries you set for me  
there are nothing but pleasant places!  
What a delightful inheritance I have!**

I praise YHWH, who guides me;  
even at night my heart teaches me.  
**I’m always aware of your presence;  
you are right by my side.  
and nothing can shake me.**  
My heart is happy and my tongue sings for joy;  
I feel completely safe with you,  
**because you won’t abandon me to the Grave;  
you won’t let your loved one see decay.**  
You show me the path to Life;  
your presence fills me with joy,  
and by your side I find enduring pleasure.

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 9th chapter.

As the time approached when he was to be taken from this world, Jesus firmly resolved to proceed toward Jerusalem and sent messengers on ahead. They entered a Samaritan town to make preparations for him, but the Samaritans wouldn't welcome Jesus because his destination was Jerusalem.

When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Rabbi, do you want us to call down fire from heaven and destroy them?" But Jesus turned and reprimanded them. Then they set off for another town.

As they were making their way along, they met a fellow traveler who said to Jesus, "I'll follow you wherever you go."

Jesus replied, "Foxes have lairs, the birds of the sky have nests, but the Chosen One has nowhere to rest."

To another traveler Jesus said, "Follow me."

The traveler replied, "Let me bury my father first."

Jesus said in return, "Let the dead bury their dead; you go and proclaim the reign of God everywhere."

Yet another traveler approached Jesus in this way: "I'll be your follower, Rabbi, but first let me say goodbye to my people at home."

Jesus answered, "Whoever puts a hand to the plow but keeps looking back is unfit for the reign of God."

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Will You Come and Follow Me – ELW 798  
*verses 1, 2, 4, and 5*

## Affirmation of Faith – Ionian Creed

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

**We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth,  
of male and female.  
We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,  
he died alone and forsaken.  
He descended into the earth  
to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven,  
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of all resurrection and of eternal life.  
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

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of faithfulness, set the face of your church firmly on you. Rooted in your self-giving love, may the church find freedom in loving our neighbors

God in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of gentleness, strengthen the earth's ability to heal. Where there are dangerous storms, bring calm. Where there are destructive fires, bring rain. Protect homes, habitats, and livelihoods threatened by climate disasters.

God in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of kindness, reveal your healing presence to all who are sick or dying (**especially**). Uphold those who grieve. Support the needs of any who are unemployed, hungry, or have nowhere to lay their heads.

God in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of love, attend to those struggling with addiction, depression, or uncontrolled anger. Provide support systems and loving companions as they work toward health, that they may rest in hope and know the fullness of joy in your presence.

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

*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:

O God Our Help in Ages Past – UMH 117  
verses 1, 3, 5, and 6

Blessing

The God of peace,  
Creator, ☩ Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
bless you, comfort you,  
and show you the path of life  
this day and always.  
**Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace – the Spirit of God is alive in you!  
**Thanks be to God!**

*Spirit of Grace*  
ELCA UMC

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**Church Office Hours**  
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**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**  
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