

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



July 31st

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Love that Never Ceases,
Wellspring of Abundance,

You do not withhold, you do not hoard;
You break bread and there is enough.

Singular Love, Unending Hope, Mysterious Peace—
We gather together, longing for You.

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

Be Thou My Vision – ELW 793
verses 1, 2, 3, and 4

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.

Bountiful God, who offers endless love and life to all who seek you – grant us the courage to embrace a ministry of abundance in our own lives. You long to see all of your children fed and nourished, loved and cared for, protected and safe. May your Spirit move us to open our hearts and hands in faith, hope, and love, to model your Kingdom here on earth. In the name of Christ, we pray.

Amen.

First Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Since you've been resurrected with Christ, set your heart on what pertains to higher realms, where Christ is seated at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things of earth. After all, you died, and now your life is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ – who is your life – is revealed, you too will be revealed with Christ in glory.

So put to death everything in you that belongs to your old nature: promiscuity, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires, and especially greed, which is the same as idolatry. These are the sins which provoke God's wrath. Your own conduct was once like this, when these things were in your life. But now you must rid yourselves of them all: anger, rage, malice, slander, and abusive language. Stop lying to one another.

What you have done is put aside your old self with its past deeds and put on a new self, one that grows in knowledge as it is formed anew in the image of its Creator. And in that image, there is no Greek or Hebrew; no Jew or Gentile; no barbarian or Scythian; no slave or citizen. There is only Christ, who is all in all.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 49:1-12

Hear this, everyone!
Listen, all who live on the earth –
**both women and men,
rich and poor alike!**
My mouth will speak wisdom,
and my heart will utter knowledge.
**I'll sing you a riddle,
and with my harp I'll explain its meaning:**

Why should I be afraid in times of danger,
or when I'm surrounded by those who lie and deceive?

**They trust only in their money,
and boast of nothing but their great wealth.**

Yet even they cannot redeem another person –
no one can pay God the ransom for someone else,
because the payment for a life is too great.

What they can pay will never be enough
to keep them from the grave,
to let them live forever.

**They see that even the wise die,
as do the foolish and stupid.**

**They all perish
and leave their riches to others.**

Their graves will be their homes forever,
there they'll live from one generation to the next,
even though they once had lands of their own.
Their prosperity cannot keep them from death;

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12th chapter.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our inheritance."

Jesus replied, "Friend, who has set me up as your judge or arbiter?" Then he told the crowd, "Avoid greed in all its forms. Your life isn't made more secure by what you own – even when you have more than you need."

Jesus then told them a parable in these words: "There was a rich farmer who had a good harvest.

'What will I do? the farmer mused. 'I have no place to store my harvest. I know! I'll pull down my grain bins and build larger ones. All my grain and goods will go there. Then I'll say to myself: You have blessings in reserve for many years to come. Relax! Eat, drink, and be merry!'

"But God said to the farmer, 'You fool! This very night your life will be required of you. To whom will all your accumulated wealth go?'

"This is the way it works with people who accumulate riches for themselves, but are not rich in God."

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

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

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors, and all who provide our food. Nourish the land and all its inhabitants.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice. Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others, and for the healing of the nations.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement. Send your Spirit to accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress, that they might find comfort and healing.

God of grace,

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 of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

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

Holy God, our Maker, our Healer, our Teacher,
your magnificent creation springs forth from your Word.
All that has life and breath praises your name.
For your Word that sustains the earth,
We thank you, O God.

You sent us Jesus, your Word, to renew the world.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry,
preached your mercy, and called us to faith.
For your Word in Christ,
We praise you, O God.

Nourish us with the Spirit of your Word,
that we may grow in grace, bearing fruits of redemption,
and sharing your strength and beauty with all the world.
For your Word in our lives,
We entreat you, O God.

Accept our thanksgiving and received our prayer,
for the sake of your living Word, Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray now 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.**

Announcements

Sending Song:

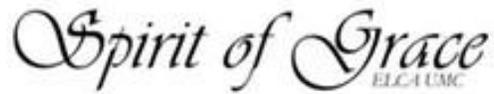
Now Thank We All Our God – UMH 102
verses 1 and 2

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!



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Church Office Hours

Closed on Fridays

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