

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



August 14th
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

By faith we get up in the morning,
learning from the rising sun how to begin again.
By faith we go out into the day,
courageously asking God to meet us where we are.
By faith we gather together,
honoring the Divine Light in one another.
By faith we fan the flames of justice—
for we have known the Spirit of Transformation.
Come, let us worship the Faithful One,
the Living God is in our midst.

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

Here I Am To Worship – W&S 3177
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.

God of peace, rouse us from our complacency. Show us how to speak out for what is right and true, taking risks and stepping beyond our comfort zones for the sake of your love and your gospel of life and liberation for all. In the name of Christ, Immanuel, the Prince of Peace, we pray.

Amen.

First Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

By faith, the people passed through the Sea of Reeds as though on dry land. When the Egyptians tried the same, they drowned.

By faith, the walls of Jericho fell after being encircled for seven days.

By faith, Rahab the prostitute didn't perish with those who were disobedient, after she welcomed the spies in peace.

What more can I say? There is no time for me to give an account of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, or David, Samuel and the prophets. These were those who through faith conquered nations, did what was just and earned the promises. They shut the jaws of lions, put out raging fires, and emerged unscathed from battle. They were weak people who were given strength, became brave in battle and put foreign invaders to flight. Some came back from the dead to their spouses by resurrection. Others submitted to torture, refusing release so they could rise again to a better life. Still others endured mockery, scourings – even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in half, even beheaded. They were homeless, dressed in the skins of sheep and goats; they were penniless and given nothing but ill treatment – the world wasn't worthy of them! And they wandered in deserts and slept on mountains and in caves and ravines. These are all heroes of our faith, but none of them received what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect apart from us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside everything that impedes us and the sin that so easily entangles us. Let us run with perseverance the race laid out for us. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection,

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 82

God presides in the divine assembly
and pronounces judgment among the “gods”

**“How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the corrupt?
Defend the lowly and the orphaned;
render justice to the oppressed and destitute!
Rescue the weak and the poor,
and save them from the hand of violence!
But you know nothing
and you understand nothing –
you walk in darkness,
and the foundations of the earth
are shaking because of your ignorance!
I said, ‘You are ‘gods,’ all of you –
children of the Most High!’
But you will die as any mortal,
and fall like any ruler!”**

**Rise up, O God, and bring justice to the earth,
for all the nations are your possession!**

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12th chapter.

“I’ve come to light a fire on the earth. How I wish the blaze were ignited already!
There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress until it is
accomplished!

“Do you think I’m here to bring peace on earth? I tell you, the opposite is true: I’ve
come to bring division. From now on a household of five will be divided – three
against two and two against three, father against son, son against father, mother
against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law,
daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Jesus said again to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you
immediately say that rain is coming – and so it does. When the wind blows from
the south, you say it’s going to be hot – and so it is. You hypocrites! If you can
interpret the portents of the earth and sky, why can’t you interpret the present
time?”

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Faith of Our Fathers – ELW 813
verses 1, 2, and 4

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.

Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners

God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters (especially). Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit.

God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by racist discrimination, ableist discrimination, and all people discriminated against based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings.

God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of peace, We pray for victims of war and violence across the world. 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

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 receive 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:

Guide My Feet – TFWS 2208
verses 12, 3, 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

Closed on Fridays

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