

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



August 28th
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

– Gathering –

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come, let us ground ourselves in the sacred wonder of this ordinary day,

for the Holy infuses all of our lives.

Let us gather together expectantly,

for the Living God sets the table for all Her Beloveds.

Let us rejoice,

for Love is not earned but freely given.

Our birthright is Belonging,

Let us welcome one another in.

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

All Are Welcome – ELW 641
verses 1, 4 and 5

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 Welcome, you sent your son, Jesus Christ, to show us what it means to embody your love for all of creation. And yet, still we find ourselves moved by the ways of the world, our hearts hardened against those you call us to embrace. Send your Spirit to move within us, and guide us in creating a new banquet table, where all are truly welcome in thought, word, and deed. In the name of Christ, we pray.
Amen.

– Word –

First Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Continue to love each other as sisters and brothers. Don't neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. And be mindful of those who are being treated badly, since you know what they are enduring.

Let marriage be honored by everyone, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge covenant breakers and adulterers.

Put the love of money out of your lives and be content with what you have, for God has said, I will never leave you or forsake you." Thus we may say with confidence,

“God is my Helper,
and I will not be afraid;

What can mere humans do to me?”

Remember your leaders, who preached the Word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Through Jesus let us continually offer God a sacrifice of praise – that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge God's Name.

Keep doing good works and sharing your resources. These are sacrifices that please God.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112

Alleluia!

Happiness comes to those who revere YHWH,
who revel in God's commands!

**Their children hold power on earth;
the descendants of the just will always be blessed.**

There will be riches and wealth for their families,
and God's justice can never be changed.

**For the just, YHWH shines like a lamp in the dark;
God is merciful, compassionate, and righteous.**

Good people are generous,
and lend money without interest;

They are honest in all their dealings.

**They never fear bad news,
because their unwavering hearts trust in YHWH,
and in the end they will triumph over their enemies.**

Quick to be generous, they give to the poor,
doing justice always and forever;
their horn will always be lifted up in honor.

**The corrupt become infuriated when they see this;
finally vanishing like their empty dreams.**

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 14th chapter.

One Sabbath, when Jesus came to eat a meal in the house of one of the leading Pharisees, the guests watched him closely.

Jesus went on to address a parable to the guests, noticing how they were trying to get a place of honor at the table.

“When you’re invited to a wedding party, don’t sit in the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished has been invited. Otherwise, the hosts might come and say to you, ‘Make room for this person,’ and you would have to proceed shamefully to the lowest place. What you should do is go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your hosts approach you they’ll say, ‘My friend, come up higher.’ This will win you the esteem of the other guests. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Then Jesus said to the host, “Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends or colleagues or relatives or wealthy neighbors. They might invite you in return and thus repay you. No, when you have a reception, invite those who are poor or have physical infirmities or are blind. You should be pleased that they can’t repay you, for you’ll be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Jesu, Jesu – UMH 432
verses 1, 3, 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.

For the well-being of creation and its inhabitants, we pray. Stir in us reverent awe for the beauty of the natural world, for oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, forests and deserts (local places may be named).

God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For the nations and peoples of the world, we pray. Sustain the efforts of those who pursue justice and equity for all. Defend and accompany all immigrants and refugees and all who are persecuted for their ethnic origin or religious beliefs.

God in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray. Be present with those who live in isolation or fear, especially those who are incarcerated or detained. Comfort all who are sick or grieving (especially).

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.**

– Sending –

Announcements

Sending Song:

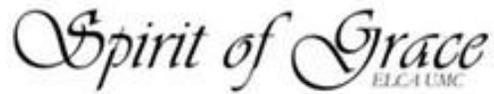
Let Us Go Now To The Banquet – ELW 523
verses 1, 2, and 3

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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Tuesday 10-1

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