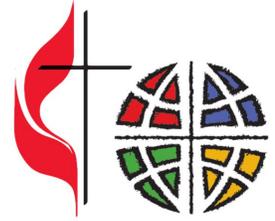


Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



August 7th
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

In faith, we are called,
to walk the road less traveled, the path untrodden.
In faith, we follow,
toward ventures of which we cannot see the ending.
In faith, we place our trust in God,
whose loving hand leads us toward God's Kingdom on Earth.

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

How Great Thou Art – ELW 856
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.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to continue on the path you have set before us with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ and with the presence of the Holy Spirit, we pray.

Amen.

First Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Faith is the reality of all that is hoped for; faith is the proof of all that is unseen. Because of faith, our ancestors were approved by God. By faith, we understand that the world was created by the word from God, and that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

By faith, Sarah and Abraham obeyed when they were called, and went off to the place they were to receive as a heritage; they went forth, moreover, not knowing where they were going.

By faith, Sarah and Abraham lived in the promised land as resident aliens, dwelling in tents with their children and grandchildren, who were heirs of the same promise – for they were looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God.

By faith, Sarah received the ability to conceive, even though she was past childbearing age, for she thought that the One who had made the promise was worthy of trust. As a result of this faith, there came forth from one woman and one man, themselves as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sands of the seashore.

All of them died in faith. They didn't obtain what had been promised, but saw and welcomed it from afar. By acknowledging themselves to be strangers and exiles on earth, they showed that they were looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country from which they had come, they'd have been able to return to it. But they were searching for a better country, a heavenly one. So God isn't ashamed of them, or ashamed to be called their God. That's why God has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 33:12-22

Happy is the nation whose God is YHWH!
Happy the people you choose as your own inheritance!
**From the heavens you look forth, YHWH,
and see all of humankind.**
From your dwelling place you watch over
all the peoples of the earth.
**shape the hearts of them all
and consider all their deeds.**

A ruler isn't saved by the size of any army;
a warrior doesn't escape because of strength.

**Trust in the horse for your deliverance
and you'll be disappointed –
despite its might,
it cannot save.**

They eyes of YHWH look on those who stand in reverence,
on those who hope in God's love

**to rescue them from death.
or to keep them alive during famine.**

And so we wait for YHWH,
our help and our shield.

**For in you our hearts find joy;
we trust in your holy Name.**

May your love be upon us, YHWH,
as we place all our hope in you.

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12th chapter.

“Fear not, little flock, for it has pleased your Abba to give you the kingdom.
“Sell what you own and give the money to poorer people. Make purses for yourselves that don't wear out – treasures that won't fail you, in heaven, that thieves can't steal and moths can't destroy. For wherever your treasure is, that's where your heart will be.

“Be dressed and ready, and keep your lamps lit. Be like the household staff awaiting the owner's return from a wedding, so that when the owner arrives and knocks, you'll open the door without delay. It will go well with those staff members whom the owner finds wide awake upon returning. I tell you the absolute truth, the owner will put on an apron, seat them at the table, and proceed to wait on them. Should the owner happen to come at midnight, or before sunrise, and find them prepared it will go well with them.

“Understand this: no homeowner who knew when a thief was coming would have let the thief break in! So be on guard – the Promised One will come when least expected.”

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

Hymn of the Day

Have No Fear, Little Flock – ELW 764
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.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Guide the conversations of our representatives at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly this week, that they might help foster a faithful future for us all.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you. Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Send us out into your people, that we might embody your presence wherever it is needed.

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of peace, you guard the nations; let no leaders exalt themselves, but lift up the most vulnerable and work for the good of all. Send your Spirit to eradicate classism and inequity, violence and war, poverty and hunger. 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](#)

Offering Prayer

God of abundance:
you have set before us a plentiful harvest.
As we feast on your goodness,
strengthen us to labor in your field,
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,
in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

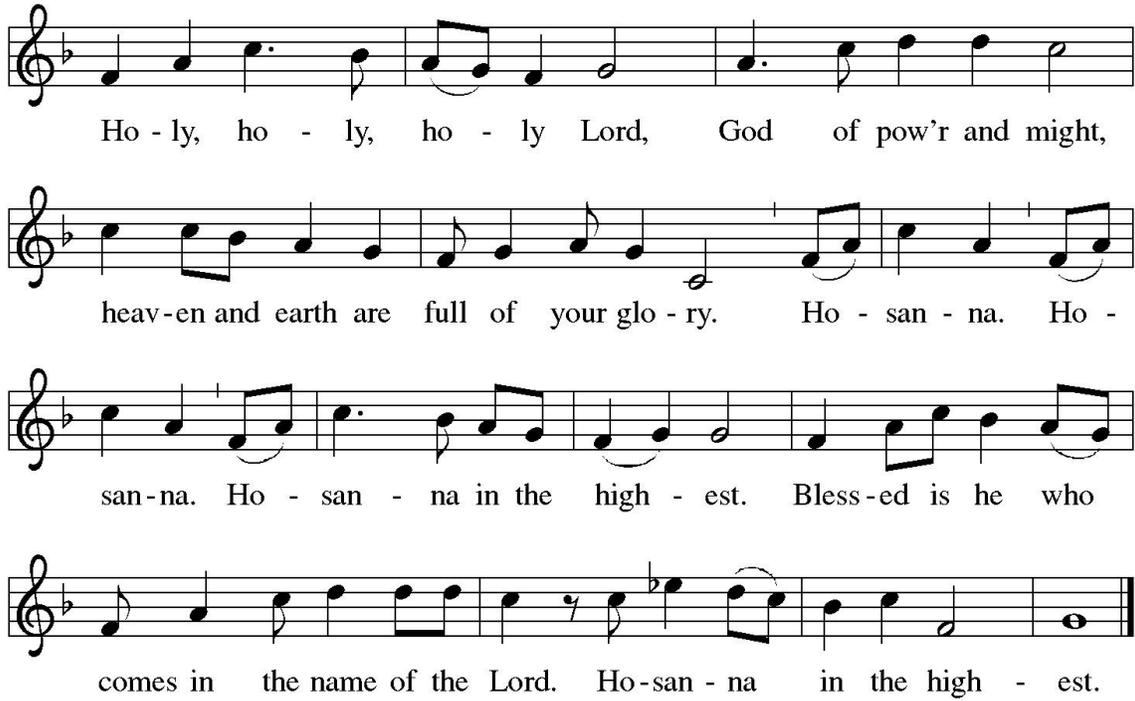
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

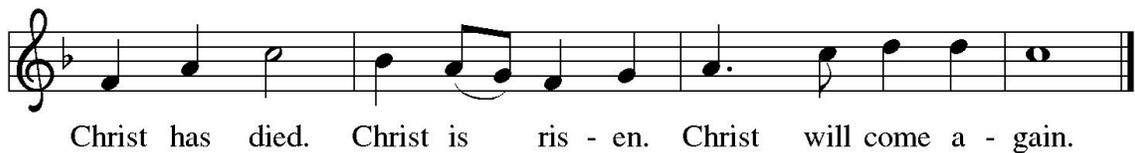
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...

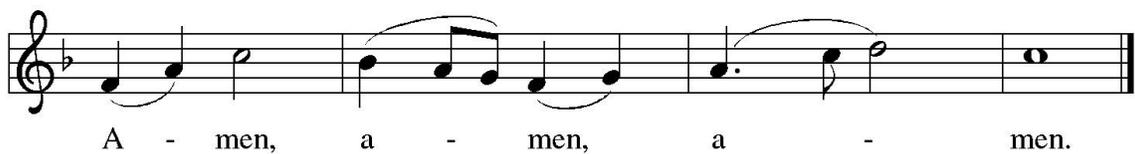
...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command...

...To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forevermore.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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

Instructions for Communion

- *First and foremost, this is Christ's table, and no human can place a barrier before it. All are welcome at this feast of abundance, regardless of age, faith, or any other human distinction.*
- *Ushers will dismiss you by row, starting with one side of the sanctuary before moving on to the other. Come forward through the center aisle and return to your seat via the outer aisle. If you wish to receive communion from your seat, please let an usher know so that we may serve you accordingly.*
- *As you come forward, we ask that you keep your mask on, and only briefly remove or lift it to receive the elements. You may also choose to bring them with you back to your seat.*
- *We have bread and gluten free wafers available as well as both wine and grape juice. The wine is the red liquid and the grape juice is the clear.*
- *If you do not wish to receive communion, you may either stay in your seat and use this time for contemplation and meditation, or you may come forward to receive a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms in front of your chest to make your desire known.*

This table of bread and wine has now been made ready.
So come to this table,
You who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been here long
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come and eat. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

Communion Distribution

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

Announcements

Sending Song:

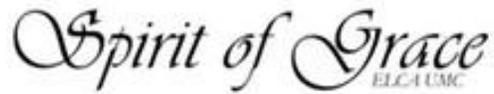
Blessed Assurance – ELW 638
verses 1 and 2

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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541-386-3993

www.hoodriverchurch.org

Church Office Hours

Closed on Fridays

Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller

M-Th 9-1, or by appointment

spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant

Tuesday 10-1

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