

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



February 5th
5th Sunday after Epiphany

- Gathering -

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

We breathe out
and the forest breathes in.
We reach out for help
and a friend picks up our call.
We feel low when the months are long
and the winter sun warms our faces.
We grapple for purpose
and mutual care grounds us in the everyday holy.
God, you are a Web of Love.
You are the Swirl of Seasons Changing.
You are Inhale and Exhale.
And we all belong in your Cosmic Care.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.
Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In ✠ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
UMH 206, 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 love, you created us from the earth so that we might live for the earth – for creation and all the beauty and diversity that fills it. Help us to let our light shine forth, reflecting your love to the world, that we all may be formed and shaped by one another, growing ever closer to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.

- Word -

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

As for myself, sisters and brothers, when I came to you I did not come proclaiming God's testimony with any particular eloquence or wisdom. No, I determined that while I was with you I would know nothing but Jesus Christ – Christ crucified. When I came among you, it was in weakness and fear, and with much trepidation. My message and my preaching did not rest on philosophical arguments, but on the convincing power of the Spirit. As a consequence, your faith rests not on human wisdom, but on the power of God.

Still, there is a certain wisdom which we express among the spiritually mature. It is not a wisdom of this age, however, nor of the rulers of this age, who are headed for destruction. No, what we utter is God's wisdom: a mysterious, hidden wisdom. God planned it before all ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age knew the mystery; if they had known it, they would never have crucified the Sovereign of Glory. Of this wisdom it is written,

“Eye has not seen, ear has not heard,
nor has it so much as dawned on anyone
what God has prepared
for those who love God.”

Yet God has revealed this wisdom through the Holy Spirit. She searches out all things, even the deep things of God. After all, no one knows one's thoughts except one's own inner spirit; by the same token, no one knows God's thoughts except God's Spirit. We haven't received the spirit of the world but the Spirit of God, so that we can understand what God has freely given us.

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 are never shaken, because they love justice
and will leave an imperishable memory behind them.**

They never fear bad news,
because their unwavering hearts trust in YHWH.

**With peaceful hearts, they fear nothing;
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;
they grind their teeth and waste away,
finally vanishing like their empty dreams.**

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5th chapter.

“You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt were to lose its flavor? How could you restore it? It would be fit for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. You don’t build a city on a hill, then try to hide it, do you? You don’t light a lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you? No, you set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your Abba God in heaven.

“Don’t think I’ve come to abolish the Law and the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. The truth is, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter of the Law,, not even the smallest part of a letter, will be done away with until it is all fulfilled. That’s why whoever breaks the least significant of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

“I tell you, unless your sense of justice surpasses that of the religious scholars and the Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Christ, Be Our Light
ELW 715, verses 1 and 5

Affirmation of Faith – Augustana Lutheran Contemporary Liturgy

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, Mother and Father of All,
Who has called us all to work together to
build a new world of Unity and Peace.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Our Brother,
Who suffered, died and rose again for Us,
that We might learn to live for Others,
and find Hope in His victory over death.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
in the power of Truth, of Peace and of Love.
We believe in the Church,
the unity and fellowship to which All are called,
that We may heal the shattered world,
and find a new and better Life,
through Christ Our Redeemer, 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

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice (*injustice such as systemic racism, church sanction of colonialism, church protection of sexual abusers may be named*).

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way (*especially*).

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

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](#)

- Meal -

Offering Prayer

Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

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

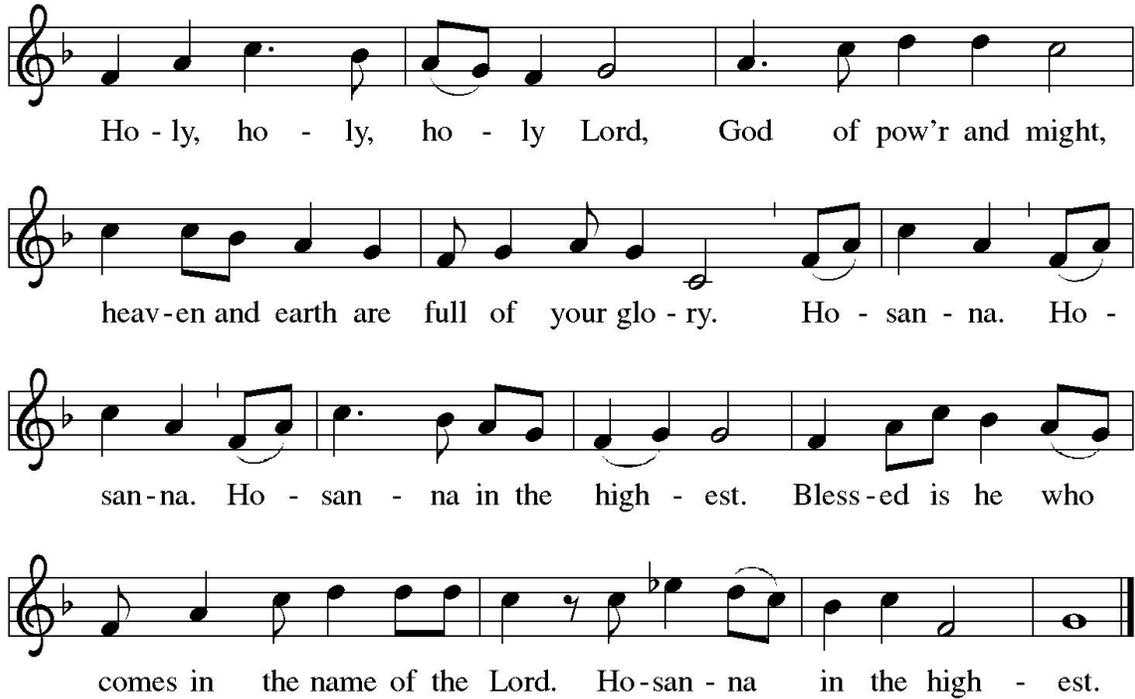
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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...

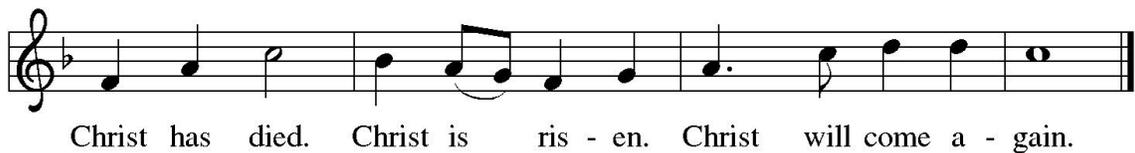
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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...

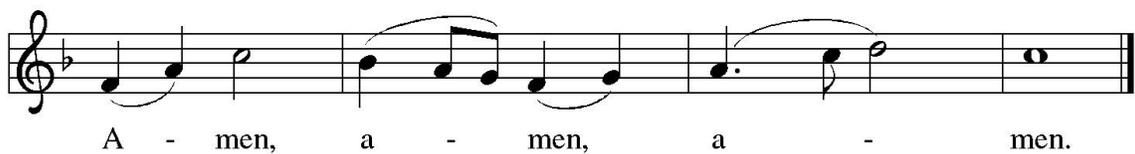
...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



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

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

Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.
Amen.

- Sending -

Sending Song:

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
ELW 712, verses 1 and 4

Benediction & Dismissal

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.
Amen.

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

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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Opening Hymn:

Prayer of the Day: *copyright Augsburg Fortress, 2022*

Hymn of the Day:

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Sending Song:

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