

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



March 5th  
*Second Sunday of Lent*

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## *- Gathering -*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

With dust of the earth and stars in our bones,  
**we gather in the presence of the One who formed us in their image.**

We name the brokenness of your world,  
**and acknowledge the fragmentations of our souls.**

Throughout these 40 days, O God, call us back to you,  
**that we might find the forgiveness we so desperately seek.**

As Jesus followed the Spirit into the Wilderness,  
**we too trust your Divine Presence to lead us where we must go.**

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.  
**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.**  
**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**  
**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**  
**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**  
**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**  
**we choose fear over compassion.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.  
This promise is for you!  
God embraces you with divine mercy,  
✠ forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**Amen.**

Opening Hymn

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus  
*ELW 451 - verses 1-3*

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.  
Eternal God, you sent your Only Begotten into this world, not only to die for us, but to live with us, and teach us how to live in you. Guide us as we are born into this new life in you, that we might grow slowly with purpose and intention as we are transformed into your holy people. In the name of Christ and through the Holy Spirit we pray.  
**Amen.**

## - Word -

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

YHWH said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people, and the home of your parents, and go to a place I will show you. I will make of you a great people. I will bless you and make your name so great that it will be used in blessings. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you. And all the people on the face of the earth will be blessed through you.”

Abram, who was 75 years old when he left Haran, began the journey as YHWH had instructed.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

I lift my eyes to the mountains –  
from where will my help come?

**My help comes from YHWH,  
who made heaven and earth!**

YHWH won't let our footsteps slip:  
our Guardian never sleeps.

**The Guardian of Israel  
will never slumber, never sleep!**

YHWH is our Guardian;

YHWH is our shade:

with God by our side,

**the sun cannot overpower us by day,  
nor the moon at night.**

YHWH guards us from harm,  
guards our lives.

**YHWH guards our leaving  
and our coming back,  
now and forever.**

Gospel: John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. "Rabbi," he said, "we know you're a teacher from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God."

Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer:

"The truth of the matter is,  
unless one is born from above,  
one cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said, "How can an adult be born a second time? I can't go back into my mother's womb to be born again!"

Jesus replied:

"The truth of the matter is,  
no one can enter God's Kingdom  
without being born of water and the Spirit.  
What is born of the flesh is flesh;  
what is born of the Spirit is Spirit.  
So don't be surprised when I tell you that  
you must be born from above.  
The wind blows where it will.  
You hear the sound it makes,  
but don't know where it comes from  
or where it goes.  
So it is with everyone  
who is born of the Spirit."

"How can this be possible?" asked Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, "You're a teacher of Israel, and you still don't understand these matters?"

The truth of the matter is,  
we're talking about what we know;  
we're testifying about what we've seen –  
yet you don't accept our testimony.  
If you don't believe  
when I tell you about earthly things,  
how will you believe  
when I tell you about heavenly things?  
No one has gone up to heaven  
except the One who came down from heaven –  
the Chosen One.  
As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so the Chosen One must be lifted up,  
so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One

might have eternal life.  
Yes, God so loved the world  
as to give the Only Begotten One,  
that whoever believes may not die,  
but have eternal life.  
God sent the Only Begotten into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but that through the Only Begotten  
the world might be saved.

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth  
*ELW 735 - verses 1-3*

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles Creed

*Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together using the words of our common creed:*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. 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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

*(sung by all)*

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

O God, you so loved your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress.

Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*(sung by all)*  
*Lord, listen to your children praying,*  
*Lord, send your Spirit in this place;*  
*Lord, listen to your children praying,*  
*send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

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](#)

Offering Prayer

God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has one long measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has one long measure: '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...

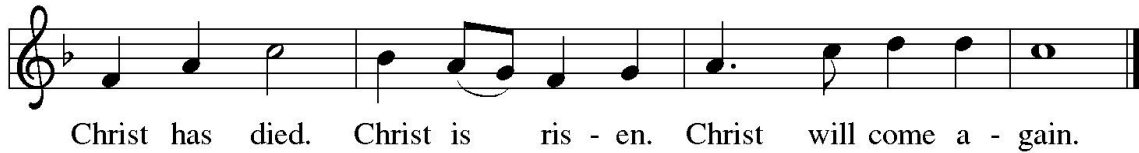
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has three measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff has three measures: 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'. The third staff has three measures: 'san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who'. The fourth staff has three measures: 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'.



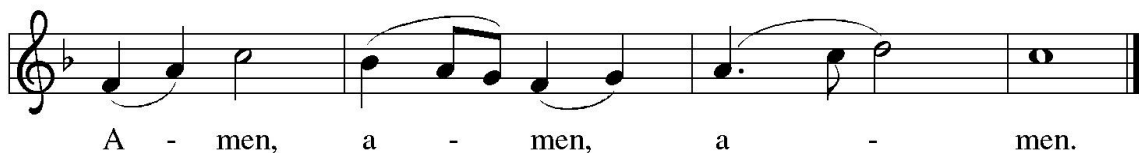
Blessed are you, O God of the Universe...  
...with this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:



O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up  
as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones  
of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and Holy Trinity,  
now and forever.



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

Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.  
**Amen.**

## - Sending -

Sending Song:

To God be the Glory  
*UMH 98 - verses 1+3*

Benediction & Dismissal

God, the giver of love,  
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.

**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](mailto:spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com)  
**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**  
Tuesday 10-1

**Attributions**

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Confession & Forgiveness: *copyright Augsburg Fortress, 2023*

Opening Hymn:

Prayer of the Day: *written by Rev. Bermes-Goller*

Hymn of the Day:

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