

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



May 14th, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Peace be with you!
And also with you!

The Holy Spirit lives within you.
She also lives within you.

Let us gather in the presence of the Redeemer,
the Beloved who sets forth the path of Life.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,
for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
ELW 631 - verses 1, 2, 4

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.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth.
In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the
world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood up before the council of the Areopagus and delivered this address: “Citizens of Athens, I note that in every respect you are scrupulously religious. As I walked about looking at your shrines,, I even discovered an altar inscribed, ‘To an Unknown God.’ Now, what you are worshiping in ignorance I intend to make known to you.

“For the God who made the world and all that is in it, the Sovereign of heaven and earth, doesn’t live in sanctuaries made by human hands, and isn’t served by humans, as if in need of anything. No! God is the One who gives everyone life, breath – everything. From one person God created all of humankind to inhabit the entire earth, and set the time for each nation to exist and the exact place where each nation should dwell. God did this so that human beings would see, reach out for, and perhaps find the One who is not really far from any of us – the One in whom we live and move and have our being. As one of your poets has put it, ‘We too are God’s children.’

“If we are in fact children of God, then it’s inexcusable to think that the Divine Nature is like an image of gold, silver, or stone – and image formed by the art and thought of mortals. God, who overlooked such ignorance in the past, now commands all people everywhere to reform their lives. For a day has been set where the whole world will be judged with justice. And this judge, who is a human being, has already been appointed. God has given proof of all of this, by raising this judge from the dead.”

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:8-20

Bless YHWH, all you peoples,
let the sound of God's praise be heard!
**God has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.**
For you have tested us, O God –
you have refined us as silver is refined.
**You put us in prisons
and laid burdens on our backs;**
you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water –
and you brought us to a place of abundance and space.

**I will come to your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay my vows to you,**
the ones my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
**I will present you burnt offerings of fatlings,
with smoke of burning rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

Come and hear, all who revere God,
and I will tell what the Holy One has done for me.
**I cried aloud to God,
and praise was on my tongue.**
If I had nursed evil in my heart,
God would not have listened.
**But God did listen,
and heeded the voice of my prayer.**
Blessed be God,
who has not rejected my prayer
or stopped loving me!

Gospel: John 14:15-21

The Holy Gospel according to John the 14th chapter.

Jesus continued,
“If you love me
and obey the command I give you,
I will ask the One who sent me
to give you another Paraclete, another Helper
to be with you always –
the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot accept
since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her;
but you can recognize the Spirit
because she remains with you
and will be within you.
I won't leave you orphaned;
I will come back to you.
A little while now and the world will see me no more;
but you'll see me;
because I live,
and you will live as well.
On that day you'll know
that I am in God
and you are in me,
and I am in you.
Those who obey the commandments
are the ones who love me,
and those who love me
will be loved by Abba God.
I too, will love them
and will reveal myself to them.”

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Loving Spirit
ELW 397 - verses 1-5

Affirmation of Faith: Ionian Creed

Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together:

**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 the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As you have raised Jesus from the dead, you show us your resurrection promise. With your holy ones who have sung your praise, free us from fear and empower us to go and tell the good news.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Generous God,
through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit,
you have given us your very self.
We offer to you that which you have first given us,
and ask that in all we do and everywhere we go,
we may be a blessing
to those we encounter on the way.
Through the risen Christ we pray.
Amen.

The Disciples' Prayer

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.**

Sending Song:

Now Thank We All Our God
ELW 839 - verses 1-3

Blessing

The God of all,
who raised ☩ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.
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
Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller
M-Th 9-1, or by appointment
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Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant
Tuesday 10-1

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