

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



April 23rd, 2023
Third 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

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!
ELW 380 - verses 1, 3, 4, 55

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 God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us
grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share
his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn babies, be hungry for nothing but milk – the pure milk of the world that will make you grow into salvation, now that you have “tasted that our God is good.”

Come to Christ – a living stone, rejected by mortals but approved nonetheless, chosen and precious in God’s eyes. And you are living stones as well: you are being built as an edifice of spirit, to become a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ. For scripture has it,

“See, I am laying a cornerstone in Zion;
an approved stone, and precious.
Those who put their faith in it
will not be shaken.”

The stone is precious for you who have faith. But for those without faith,

“The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”
and, at the same time,
“an obstacle and a stumbling block.”

Those who stumble and fall are the disbelievers in God’s word; it is their destiny to do so.

You, however, are a “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart” to sing the praises of the One who called you out of the darkness into the wonderful, divine light. Once you were “not a people,” but now you are the people of God; once there was “no mercy for you,” but now you have found mercy.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, YHWH, I took refuge;

never let me be disgraced!

In your justice, deliver me!

Turn your ear to me!

Hurry! Rescue me!

Be the rock I hide behind;

be the walled fortress that saves me!

Because you are my rock, my fortress,

and for the sake of your Name,

lead me, guide me!

Pull me out of the trap they set for me,

for you are my refuge!

Into your hands I commit my spirit;

deliver me, YHWH, God of truth!

**My times are in your hand;
save me from the hands of my enemies and persecutors.
Smile on your faithful one;
save me in your love!**

Gospel: John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John the 14th chapter.

Jesus said,

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled.
You have faith in God;
have faith in me as well.
In God’s house there are many dwelling places;
otherwise, how could I have told you
that I was going to prepare a place for you?
I am indeed going to prepare a place for you,
and then I will come back and take you with me,
that where I am
there you may be as well.
You know the way that leads to where I am going.”

Thomas replied, “But we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus told him,

“I myself am the Way –
I am Truth,
and I am Life.
No one comes to Abba God
but through me.
If you really knew me,
you would know Abba God also.
From this point on,
you know Abba God
and you have seen God.”

“Rabbi,” Philip said, “show us Abba God, and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and still you don’t know me?

Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God.
How can you say, 'Show us your Abba'?
Don't you believe that I am in Abba God
and God is in me?
The words I speak are not spoken of myself;
it is Abba God, living in me,
who is accomplishing the works of God.
Believe me that I am in God and God is in me,
or else believe because of the works I do.
The truth of the matter is,
anyone who has faith in me
will do the works I do –
and greater works besides.
Why? Because I go to Abba God,
and whatever you ask in my name I will do,
so that God may be glorified in me.
Anything you ask in my name
I will do."

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

His Eye is on the Sparrow
TFWS 2146 - verses 1+2

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.

Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming.

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster

Be with us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick or suffering, in body, mind, or spirit.

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.

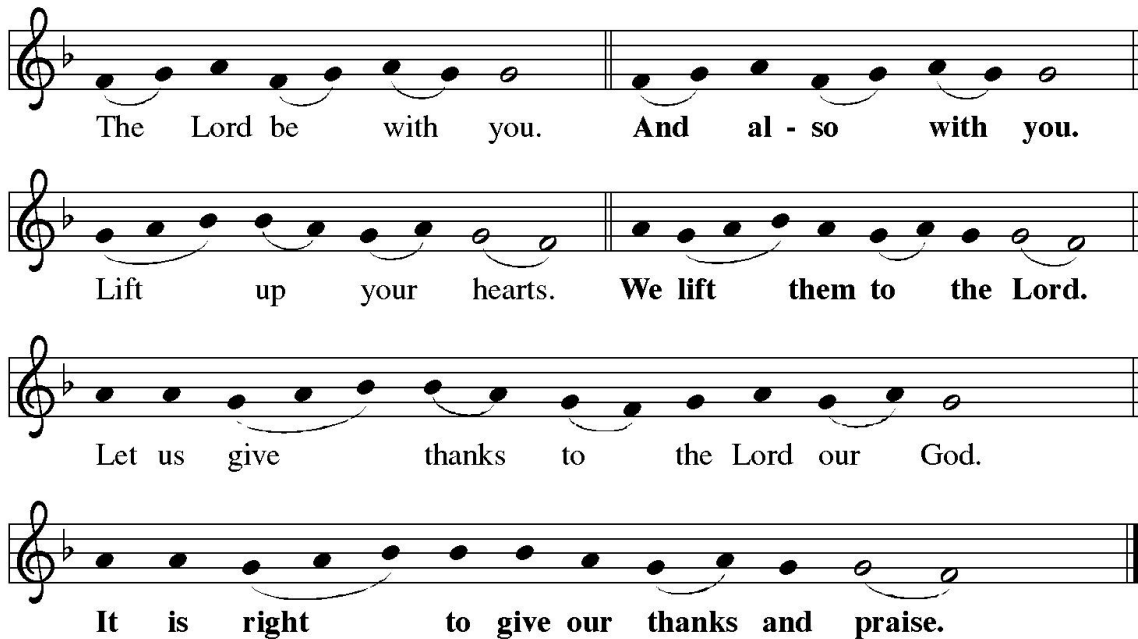
Offering

*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,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



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

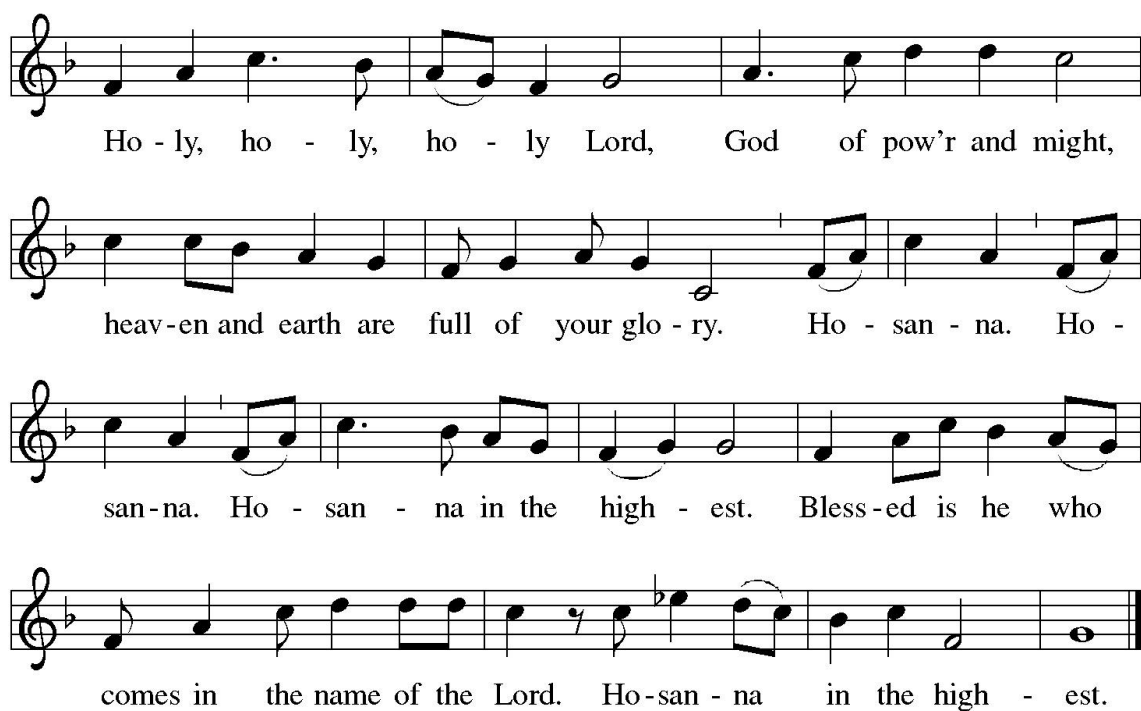
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

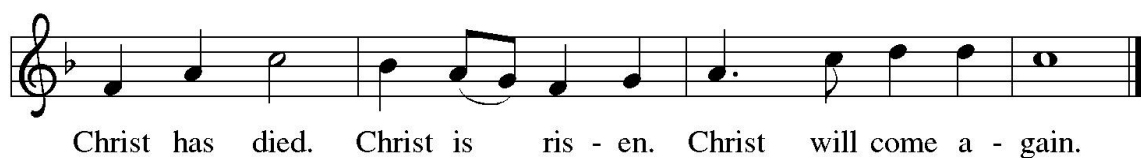
The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with a double bar line.

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.

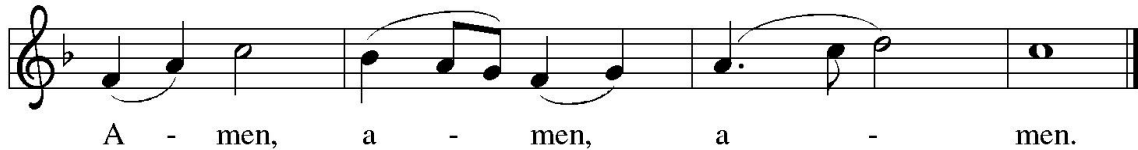
Blessed are you, O God of the Universe...we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



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

O God of resurrection and new life:
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 Bless this feasts,
 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 forth,
 burning with justice,
 peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones
of all times and all 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

Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Sending Song:

The Church's One Foundation
ELW 654 - verses 1, 4, 5

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!



1140 Tucker Rd. Hood River, OR 97031

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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