

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



July 2nd, 2023
5th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Let us sing of the tender mercies of YHWH forever!

Young and old will hear of God's faithfulness.

YHWH's unfailing love will last forever.

God's faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens.

Happy are we who hear the joyful call to worship,
for we walk in the light of God's presence!

Let us worship God together—

celebrating who God is and all that God has done!

For God is our strength and our protection,
the One in whom we trust.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of our neighbors.

Silence is kept for reflection

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

Righteous God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

All Are Welcome
ELW 641 – verses 1, 3, 5

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.
Liberating God, we give you thanks that you sent your son to earth, to show us the way to freedom. May we use the lessons we have learned and the grace we have been given to dedicate our lives in service to you, working towards the freedom and liberation of all your beloved children on earth. In the name of our teacher, Jesus the Christ, we pray.
Amen.

First Reading: Romans 6:12-23

So don't let sin rule your mortal body and make you obey its lusts; don't offer the members of your body to sin as weapons of injustice anymore. Rather, offer yourselves to God as people alive from the dead, and your bodies to God as weapons for justice. Sin no longer has power over you, for you are now under grace, not under the Law.

Where does all this lead? Just because we are not under the Law but under grace, are we free to sin? By no means! You must realize that when you offer yourselves to someone else in obedience, you are bound to obey that person, whether you subject yourself to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to justice. Thanks be to God, that though once you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that rule of teaching imparted to you; freed from your sin, you became forever committed to justice.

I use the following example of human affairs because of your weak human nature. Just as you used to enslave your bodies to impurity and licentiousness for their degradation, now make them stewards of justice for their sanctification. When you were slaves to sin, you felt no need to work for justice. What benefit did you enjoy from these things that you are now ashamed of, all which lead to death? But now that you are freed from sin and have offered yourselves to God in obedience, your benefit is that you are being made holy; your outcome is eternal life. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Forever I will sing the wonders of your love, YHWH,
proclaiming your faithfulness to all generations!

**I'll tell them that your love stands firm forever,
your fidelity is fixed in the heavens.**

"I have made a covenant with my chosen;
sworn an oath to David, my faithful one:

**'I will establish your line forever,
and make your throne firm throughout all generations.'"**

Happy are those who have learned to praise you, YHWH,
who walk in the light of your presence!

**They will rejoice in your Name all day long,
uplifted by your justice.**

You are the strength in which they glory;
through your favor we hold our heads high.

**YHWH is our shield;
the holy One of Israel is our ruler.**

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 10th chapter.

Jesus continued instructing the Twelve,

“Those who welcome you also welcome me, and those who welcome me welcome the One who sent me.

“Those who welcome prophets just because they are prophets will receive the reward reserved for those prophets themselves; those who welcome holy people just because they are holy will receive the reward of the holy ones.

“The truth is, whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones just for being a disciple will not lack a reward.”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

To Be Your Presence
ELW 546 – verses 1-4

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed

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

**We are not alone
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our redeemer and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. 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

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. For wisdom to heed the voices of prophets in our midst who cast a vision of God's promised future. For courage to welcome people whom society rejects. For resolve to serve all in need.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. For the great Columbia river, and all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams. For lands experiencing scorching heat, drought, or wildfires. For conservation organizations and environmental activists. For scientists working on clean energy solutions.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We pray for this nation and all nations. For those who work tirelessly to bring freedom, justice, and liberation to the marginalized. For the divisions among us that prevent us from seeing one another as fully human. For the hope that one day we will be a country that puts people above profit, and liberation over legislation. Guide us in ways of freedom that promote the common good.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need. For exiles, immigrants, refugees, and those seeking asylum. For victims of harassment, torture, or abuse. For those who are ill. For any near death and for all who grieve.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

We pray for children. For their safety at home and in childcare settings. For their flourishing at summer programs and camps. For the many people who care for them including parents and grandparents; childcare workers and teachers; coaches, counselors, and mentors; pediatricians and psychologists.

God, in your mercy,

Receive 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](#)

Offertory Prayer

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs or groups of four. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across bar lines. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

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.

Holy God,
 holy and mighty,
 holy and immortal:
 you we praise and glorify,
 you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;
 you encircled the globe with air;
 you created fire
 for warmth and light;
 you nourish the lands with water.

You molded us in your image,
 and with mercy
 higher than the mountains,
 with grace deeper than the seas,
 you blessed the Israelites
 and cherished them as your own.

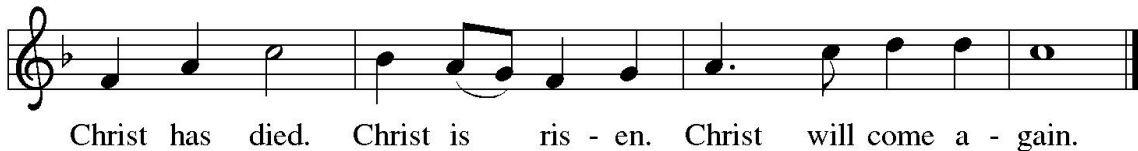
That also we, estranged and dying,
 might be adopted
 to live in your Spirit,
 you called to us

through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night
in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples.
saying: Take and Eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying, "This cup
is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.



With this bread and cup
we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life
lived for others,
and his death and resurrection
which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming, when,
with the world made perfect
through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows
will be no more.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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. Amn.**

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

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Sending Song:

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
TFWS 2241 – verses 1-4

Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
⊕ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.
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
spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com
Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant
Tuesday 10-1

Attributions

Call to Worship – from re-worship.blogspot.com, adapted by Rev. Bermes-Goller

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed – Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

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