

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



November 12th, 2023

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Gather us in, the brokenhearted and the joyful.

Gather us in, the weak and the strong.

Gather us in, the fearful and the brave.

Gather us in, the young and the old.

Gather us in, to sing of God's works.

Gather us in, to praise Jesus Christ.

Gather us in, to worship and wonder.

Gather us in, to know of God's love.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.

Let us come before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Blessed Assurance
ELW 638 – 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.
O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your
Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

You who wish for the Day of YHWH to come –
why do you want it?
What will the Day of YHWH mean to you?
It will be a day of darkness, not light.
It will be all gloom, without a single ray of light.
I despise and reject your feasts!
I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies!
When you offer me burnt offerings,
I reject your oblations,
and refuse to look at your sacrifices of fattened cattle!
Spare me from the racket of your chanting!
Relieve me of the strumming of your harps!
Instead, let justice flow like a river,
and righteousness flow like an unfailing stream.

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

Psalm 70

Oh God, save me!
YHWH, help me, and hurry!
**Let those who seek my life
be humiliated and dazed!**
**Let those who wish me harm
flee in disgrace!**
Those who jeer, “Aha! Aha!” –
make them retreat, covered with shame!
**Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you!**
**Let those who love your salvation
forever say, “God is great!”**
As for me, I am wretched and poor, my God –
hurry to my side!
You are my rescuer, my help; YHWH, do not delay.

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.

“Then again, the kingdom of heaven could be likened to ten attendants who took their lamps and went to meet the bridal party. Five of them were wise; five were foolish. When the foolish ones took their lamps, they didn’t take any oil with them, but the wise ones took enough oil to keep their lamps burning. The bridal party was delayed, so they all fell asleep.

“At midnight there was a cry: ‘Here comes the bridal party! Let’s go out to meet them!’ Then all the attendants rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘Perhaps there won;t be enough for us; run to the dealers and get some more for yourselves.’

“While the foolish ones went to buy more oil, the bridal party arrived; and those who were ready went to the marriage feast with them, and the door was shut. When the foolish attendants returned, they pleaded to be let in. The doorkeeper replied, ‘The truth is, I don’t know you.’

“So stay awake, for you don’t know the day or the hour.”

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
UMH 720 – verses 1-3

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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Holy God, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever, a sign of your everlasting peace. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. We pray to you especially in this time of war, oppression, and persecution in the Holy Land. Help us in our confusion, and guide us in our actions and responses. Lead us in the way of solidarity with the oppressed and peace for all people – give us the strength we need to not stay silent in situations of injustice. Heal the hurt and harm, console the bereaved and afflicted, protect the innocent and helpless, and deliver all who are still in peril.

God of grace,

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](#)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them, that –
as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings –
we might be strengthened for the journey,
to care for all of your blessed and beloved children.
Through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.

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:

Soon and Very Soon
ELW 439 – verses 1-4

Blessing

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.
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
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Attributions

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