

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



January 21st, 2024
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
-Home Worship-

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

God of the prophets, call to us today.
Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.
God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us.
Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.
God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You.
Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.
God of all creation, help us to know Your ways.
We gather to hear Your call,
to sing Your praise,
to teach each other,
to pray and worship as the Body of Christ.

Centering Hymn

God is Here Today
ACS 993

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of ☩ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I tell you, sisters and brothers, the time is short. From now on, those with spouses should live as though they had none. Those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for, and those who rejoice should live as though they had nothing to laugh about. Buyers should conduct themselves as though they owned nothing, and those who have to deal with the world should live as if their dealings meant nothing – for the world as we know it is passing away.

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

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14-20

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter:

After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!"

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw the brothers Simon and Andrew, casting their nets into the sea, since they fished by trade. Jesus said to them, "Follow me; I will make you fishers of humankind." They immediately abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

Proceeding a little further along, Jesus saw the brothers James and John Bar-Zebedee. They too were in their boat, putting their nets in order. Immediately, Jesus called them, and they left their father Zebedee standing in the boat with the hired help, and went off in the company of Jesus.

Word of God, for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Psalm 62 (from Nan C. Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*)

For You alone my soul waits in silence;
from the Beloved comes my salvation.
**Enfolding me with strength and steadfast love,
my faith shall remain firm.**

Yet, how long will fear rule my life,
holding me in its grip like a trembling child,
a dark and lonely grave?
**Fear keeps me from living fully, from sharing my gifts;
it takes pleasure in imprisoning my soul.**
Fear pretends to comfort, so long has it dwelled within me;
truly, it is my enemy.

**For You alone my soul waits in silence;
my hope is from the Beloved.**
Enfolding me with strength and steadfast love,
my faith shall remain firm.
**In the Silence rests my freedom and my guidance;
for You are the Heart of my heart,
You speak to me in the Silence.**

Trust in Love at all times, O people
pour out your heart to the Beloved;
Let Silence be a refuge for you.
**Being of low estate is but a sigh,
being of high estate is misleading.
In the balance, either high or low,
it is of little consequence—
they are gone in one breath.**
Riches, whether obtained by right or through extortion,
rarely lead to nought but greed—
set not your heart on them.

**Once You have spoken,
twice have I heard:
our potential gifts belong to You;
to You, O Beloved, belongs our faithful love.**
For you render to us all that we offer to You—
fear begets fear,
love begets love.
**For You alone, my soul waits in silence;
from the Beloved come Life, Love, and Light.**

Prayers of the People

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God who proclaims judgment and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God who cares for the suffering; care for survivors of assault and abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain

We pray to you especially in this time of war, oppression, and genocide in the Holy Land. 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 remain in peril.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us.

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.**

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.**

Blessing

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.
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

Call to Worship: written by Rev. Mindi, on her Rev-o-lution blog, sourced from re-worship.blogspot.com

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