

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



February 25th, 2024  
*Second Sunday in Lent*

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,  
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**Lent calls us to journey:  
to the place where God covenants with us,  
to receive the new names we are given.**

Lent calls us to worship together,  
to tell future generations the good news.

**Lent calls us to practice justice,  
to bring God's hope to all people.**

Lent calls us to faithful living,  
to trust the One who gives us life.

**Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,  
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,  
this and every day.**

## Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.  
We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.  
We speak in ways that silence others.  
We are silent when we should speak up.  
We keep score in our hearts.  
We let hurts grow into hatred.  
For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

Beloved Siblings in Christ, here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus  
*ELW 802 – verses 1, 3, 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.

Though people may turn their backs on us, you do not hide your face from us. Though others may try to take away our hope, you assure us of that future waiting for us. You speak your name, Inscrutable Creator, and it is enough.

When we try to dictate our fears to you, you invite us to follow you into self-denial and service. As we struggle to shape our lifestyle to yours, you carry us with you wherever we go. You speak your good news, Teacher of open hearts, and it is enough.

Though we have done nothing to earn them, you pour out the gifts of grace and mercy upon us. When we stumble over our lack of trust, you set us back on our feet, to follow you into the kingdom. You speak your peace, Breath of Holiness, and it is enough.

It is in your Holy Name that we gather and pray, **Amen.**

## Scripture Acclamation

*Words of life, words of hope  
give us strength, help us cope.  
In this world where e'er we roam,  
ancient words will guide us home.*

*Ancient words, ever true  
changing me and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts.  
O let the ancient words impart.*

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, YHWH appeared and said, “I am the Breasted One. Walk in my presence and be blameless. I will make a covenant between you and me, and I will increase your numbers exceedingly.”

Abram fell on his face before God and God said to him, “This is my covenant with you: You will be the ancestor of many nations. You are no longer to be called Abram ‘Respected Parent,’ but Abraham, ‘Progenitor of a Multitude,’ for you are the progenitor of a multitude of nations. I will make you most fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and rulers will spring from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for generations to come. I will be your God, and the God of your descendants after you.”

God continued, “As for Sarai, her name will now be Sarah, ‘Nobelwoman.’ I will bless her, and I will give you a child by her. I will bless her and she will become nations; rulers of peoples will come from her.”

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

Psalm 22: 23-31 (from Nan C. Merrill’s *Psalms for Praying*)

I will tell of your Name to all I meet,  
in the midst of assemblies I will praise You;  
**You, who are in wonder of the Mystery, give praise!**  
For our loving Creator does not turn away from the afflicted,  
And does not hide from them;  
**But their cries are heard,  
their prayers rise up to heaven.**

To You, O Beloved, I lift up my voice in the great congregation;  
for You promise to remain with those whose love is steadfast.  
**The hungry shall eat and be satisfied;  
Those who seek You shall sing praises!  
Your Heart is our dwelling place forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to Love’s way;  
**And all the families of the nations  
shall bow down with grateful hearts.**  
For power and authority belong to the Most High,  
who rules over the nations.

**Yes, the proud of the earth shall be humbled,  
while those who still live in fear and illusions  
will separate themselves not knowing the indwelling Peace of the Beloved.  
Posterity shall know and serve Love,  
telling of the One who abides in all the coming generations,  
And proclaiming deliverance to a people yet unborn  
that the Most High dwells among us.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:31-38

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 8th chapter:

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, and be put to death, and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly.

Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. At this, Jesus turned around and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter, "Get out of my sight, you Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God's!"

Jesus summoned the crowd and disciples and said, "If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you'll lose it, but if you would lose your life for my sake, you'll save it. What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose yourself in the process? What can you offer in exchange for your soul? Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before our God in glory."

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

Sermon

Rev. Miranda Bermes-Goller

Hymn of the Day

Living for Jesus  
*TFWS 2149 – verses 1, 2, 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 promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders.  
God of grace,  
**Receive our prayer.**

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation.  
God of grace,  
**Receive our prayer.**

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion.

*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. Use our voices to speak out against 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.**

We turn to you for healing. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved.  
God of grace,  
**Receive our prayer.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love  
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 Abundance  
you are the giver of every good gift,  
and all that blesses us comes from you.  
Receive that which you have first given us,  
strengthen us to your service,  
and send us out into the world  
that we might be filled with  
the power of the Holy Spirit  
and raised to new life in Christ.  
**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:

Canto de Esperanza (Song of Hope)  
*TFWS 2186, sung twice through*

Blessing

Beloved Siblings in Christ,  
we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and ☩ give you peace.  
**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 Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies.  
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

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*Prayer of the Day: Written by Thom Shuman, on his Lectionary Liturgies blog.  
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at  
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