

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



April 14th, 2024  
*Third Sunday of Easter*

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We have not seen the risen Christ,  
**but we see him in the lives  
of those transformed by grace.**

We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,  
**but we have seen him in the faces  
of everyone whose love encourages us.**

We have not touched the wounds  
from the cross,  
**but we have been called to bring healing  
to the scars of the world.**

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.  
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.  
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.  
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.  
We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Look, here is water!  
**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## Opening Hymn

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!  
*ELW 377 – verses 1-4*

## 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.

God of Hope, We see your love poured out for us in all the world. Make us more like you. Teach us to live together as one community human and beyond-human, creature and created to your glory, so your love is known among all the living.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

Peter addressed the people as follows:

“Why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if we had made this person walk by our own power or holiness? You are Israelites, and it is the God of Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, Leah and Rachel and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified Jesus – the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. You disowned the Holy and Just One and asked instead for the release of a murderer. You put to death the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead – a fact to which we are witnesses. It is the name of Jesus, and faith in it, that has strengthened the limbs of this one whom you see and know well. Such faith has given this beggar perfect health, as all of you can see.

“Yet I know, my sisters and brothers, that you acted out of ignorance, just as your leaders did. God has brought the fulfillment by this means what was announced long ago by the prophets: that the Messiah would suffer. Therefore, reform your lives! Turn to God, that your sins might be wiped away.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O Beloved of my heart!  
**You enveloped me in Love when I was in dire distress.**  
**Be gracious to me now; hear my prayer!**

O friends, how long will my reputation suffer shame?  
How long will you listen to false words?  
**I seek only what is lifegiving.**

You know that the Beloved  
dwells with all who are filled with Love;  
**Love hears when our hearts cry out.**  
Though you may feel angry,  
do not give in to fear;  
**Commune with the Heart of your heart**  
**as you rest; be in silence.**  
Bask in the stillness.  
**Face your fears with forgiveness,**  
**and trust in Love.**

There are many who say,  
“Grant us special favors, O Mighty One!  
Bestow upon us your grace that we may prosper!”  
**Love has brought more joy to my heart**  
**than they have when their banks are filled.**  
In peace will I spend my days  
and sleep at night;  
**For You alone, my Beloved,**  
**teach me the way of Love!**

Gospel Acclamation

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah – ELW 172

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24th chapter.

Jesus himself stood in [the disciples'] midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." In their panic and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Why are you disturbed? Why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and my feet; it is I, really. Touch me and see – a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones as I do." After saying this Jesus showed them the wounds.

They were still incredulous for sheer joy and wonder, so Jesus said to them, "Do you have anything to eat?" After being given a piece of cooked fish, the savior ate in their presence.

Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the psalms had to be fulfilled."

Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, "That is why the scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah's name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all this."

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Because He Lives  
*UMH 364 – verses 1-3*

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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change.

Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry here in the Columbia Gorge. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community.

God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

O God our waymaker, you long for justice and peace in this world. Send your Spirit to the places of violence and unrest among us, that we may see the error of our ways and work towards enacting your true peace on earth. We pray especially this day for those enduring genocide in Palestine, and for the workers for peace and justice who put their lives at risk to protect your people and your creation.

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

Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.  
**Amen.**

The Disciples' Prayer

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:

Touch That Soothes and Heals  
*ACS 939 – verses 1-4*

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and 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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**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**  
Tuesday 10-1

Attributions

Call to Worship – written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted on the Lectionary Liturgies blog.

Prayer of the Day – Written by Rev. Laurie Bayen and Rev. Laura Baumgartner, from UMC Discipleship Ministries Worship Planning 2024

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