

Spirit of Grace ELCA UMC



July 28th, 2024
10th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

We worship the God who inhabits our world
and indwells our lives.

We need not look up to find God,

we need only to look around:

within ourselves,

beyond ourselves,

into the eyes of another.

We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,

we need only listen to the music of life,

the words of children,

the questions of the curious,

the rhythm of a heartbeat.

We worship the God who inhabits our world

and who indwells our lives.

Hymn of the Season

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

ACS 971 – verses 1-3

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

Centering Hymn

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
ELW 461 – 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.

God of abundance, you take all that we have to offer and multiply it tenfold, creating a feast of plenty for all who hunger. Give us the graciousness of your heart, and a willingness to give all that we have for the good of all whom you love. In the name of Christ, who taught us in this way, we pray.

Amen.

First Reading: Ephesians 3:10-21

Now, therefore, through the church, God's manifold wisdom is made known to the rulers and powers of heaven, in accord with the age-old design, carried out in Christ Jesus our Savior, in whom we have boldness and confident access to God through our faith in Christ. So, I beg you, never be discouraged because of my sufferings for you. They are your glory.

That is why I kneel before Abba God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. And I pray that God, out of the riches of divine glory, will strengthen you inwardly with power through the working of the Spirit. May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, so that you, being rooted and grounded in love, will be able to grasp fully the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love and, with all God's holy ones, experience this love that surpasses all understanding, so that you may be filled with the fullness of God. To God – whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine – to God be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end! Amen.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:8-18

The Beloved is gracious and merciful, allowing every soul free will to follow the ego's illusions or to choose Life.

**Gratitude and quiet joy overflow
as I recall the abundant blessings of your grace!**

Lift up your hearts, all you who choose the path of Life!
My heart is lifted up!

“Do you not know that your whole being
is encompassed by My Love?
**I am the infinite and the eternal within your soul;
O, that I might make Myself known to you!**
Choose Love that you might overcome oppression
and blind obedience to false idols!”

**“Divine Light shines in those who live in Love.
I shall uphold all who are burdened with fear,
and raise up all who call to Me.**
The time is nigh for you to choose,
for great is the new dawn that fast approaches;
I call each of you to open your inner ears,
to see with spiritual eyes,
**And to trust that even amidst the outward chaos,
all is working toward the wholeness of humanity.”**

O, Heart of my heart, envelop me!
I know You are near to all who call upon You.
**Bring to my recollection all that I have denied,
that I might be accepting and free
to help rebuild the soul of the world
with radical trust, love, and wonder!**
When I speak, let it be of blessing and gratitude;
let your glory within me shine out to the world!

Gospel: John 6:1-21

The Holy Gospel according to John the 6th chapter.

Some time later, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – that is, Lake Tiberius – and a huge crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by healing sick people. Jesus climbed the hillside and sat down there with the disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowd approaching and said to Philip, “Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?” Jesus knew very well what he was going to do, but asked this to test Philip’s response.

Philip answered, “Not even with two hundred days’ wages could we buy enough loaves to give each of them a mouthful!”

One of the disciples, Simon Peter’s brother Andrew, said, “There’s a small boy here with five barley loaves and two dried fish. But what good is that for so many people?”

Jesus said to them, “Make the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand families sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting there; he did the same with the fish, giving out as much as they could eat.

When the people had eaten their fill, Jesus said to the disciples, “Gather up the leftover pieces so that nothing gets wasted.” So they picked them up and filled twelve baskets with the scraps left over from the five barley loaves.

The people, seeing this sign Jesus had performed, said, “Surely this is the Prophet who was to come into the world.”

Seeing that they were about to come and carry him off to crown him as ruler, Jesus escaped into the hills alone.

As evening approached, the disciples went down to the lake. They got in their boat, intending to cross to Capernaum, which was on the other side of the lake. By this time it was dark, and Jesus had still not joined them; moreover, a stiff wind was blowing and the sea was becoming rough.

When they had rowed three or four miles, they caught sight of Jesus approaching the boat, walking on water. They were frightened, but he told them, “It’s me. Don’t be afraid.” They were about to take him into the boat, but suddenly the boat was ashore at their destination.

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda P. Bermes

Hymn Response

We Come to the Hungry Feast
ELW 479 – 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

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

God of generations, you work in us far more than we can ask or imagine. Bless the church you have called into being across time and space, and fill it with the power of the Spirit for loving service.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God of field and forest, streams and seas, you are the fullness of all things. As grains of wheat grow upon the earth and fish swim in the waters, sustain your creation. Protect harvests and give every person food in due season.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God beyond borders, you rule all in all. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers, shield those who live, work, or serve in harm's way, and bring an end to war and conflict.

We pray especially for those enduring genocide in Palestine, for all of the protestors and advocates for liberation, and especially for all of the aid and relief workers who have put themselves in harms way to tend to the wellbeing of victims of violence.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering, families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and any beloved for whom death is near.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

God of grace, you root us and ground us in love. As you inspired our ancestors in this place in their ministry, sustain us also in new endeavors, that your glory may be made known, and your lovingkindness shared anew.

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

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside down world of the gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but what we can give away.
Let us give away generously, in this offering,
To bless your church, your people, your creation.
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:

Christ, from Whom All Blessings Flow
UMH 550 – verses 1, 2, 5, 6

Blessing

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

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 – posted on the Presbyterian Church USA website.
https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/mlk-resources.pdf

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Prayer of Thanksgiving – written by Rev. Quentin Chin. Posted on the United Church of Christ website.
<http://uccfiles.com/pdf/FeedmySheepEaster3April14.pdf>, accessed via re:worship.blogspot.com