

Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



July 7th, 2024
7th 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.

Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
UMH 400 – 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.

Loving God, who opens our hearts to the mysteries of faith in ordinary and extraordinary moments, come near to us today.

Make known among us and within us your strength, that we might experience your power that uses what the powers of this world call weakness to demonstrate your Almighty love to all creation.

In the name of Christ, who taught us in this way, we pray.

Amen.

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

I must go on boasting, however useless it may be, and speak of visions and revelations from God. I know someone who fourteen years ago was caught up in the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know – only God knows. And I know that this person – whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know, only God knows – was caught up to paradise to hear words that cannot be uttered, words that no one may speak. About this person I will boast, but I will do no boasting about myself, unless it be about my weaknesses. And even if I were to boast, it wouldn't be foolish of me, because I am speaking the truth.

But I refrain, so that no one will think more of me than is justified by what I do or say. Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh – a messenger from Satan to beat me – to keep me from exalting myself! Three times I begged God that it might leave me. And God said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I would rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. So I am content with weakness, with mistreatment, with distress, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ; when I am powerless, it is then that I am strong.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123

To You I lift up my spirit,
You, who are enthroned in every heart!
**For, as the young child holds tightly
the hand of its parent,**
As those in the throes of disease
look to one who brings comfort,
**So our spirits seek the Heart of Love,
that we might find mercy and forgiveness.**

Have mercy on us, O Compassionate One,
have mercy,
**that we might turn from our
blind and ignorant ways.**
Too long our souls have been veiled
by fear and illusion.
**Have mercy, lead us to the path of wholeness,
that we may know the abiding Peace of the Beloved.**

Gospel: Mark 6:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 6th chapter.

After leaving there, Jesus came into his own town, followed by the disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and the many listeners were astonished and said, "Where did he learn all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted, and these miracles that are performed by his hands? Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joses and Judah and Simon? Are not his sisters here with us?" They found these things to be stumbling blocks.

Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometowns and among their own relatives and in their own households." And he could work no miracles there, apart from laying his hands upon a few sick people and healing them; their lack of faith astounded him. He made the rounds of neighboring villages instead, and spent the time teaching.

Then Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs, giving them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them that they should take nothing for the journey, except a mere staff – no bread, no bag, no money in their belts. They were to wear sandals but, he added, "Do not take a spare tunic." And Jesus said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you leave it, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet as a testimony against them."

And so they set off, proclaiming repentance as they went. They cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Miranda P. Bermes

Hymn Response

We All Are One in Mission
ELW 576 – 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.

Glorious God, you bend down to wash the feet of your disciples. Let the servant church arise in our teaching, our praying, our healing, and our doing. Make all your faithful people powerful in weakness and strong in grace.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, your fingers trace the heavens and your hands mold the earth. Where there is drought, bring nourishing rain. Where there is devastation from fire or flood, bring relief. Sustain the well-being of every living thing.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Merciful God, you speak and the nations listen. Open those who govern to the cries of all who journey with no food or shelter, particularly people fleeing violence, those seeking freedom, and those in search of community.

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.

Gracious God, your embrace brings wholeness to those who are troubled. Anoint all who suffer in any way with the oil of healing and grant them renewal.

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

Welcoming God, in your presence strangers become companions and enemies become neighbors. Open our doors to those we have so easily shut out, particularly people who are different from us or who are marginalized by church or society.

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](#)

Offering Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

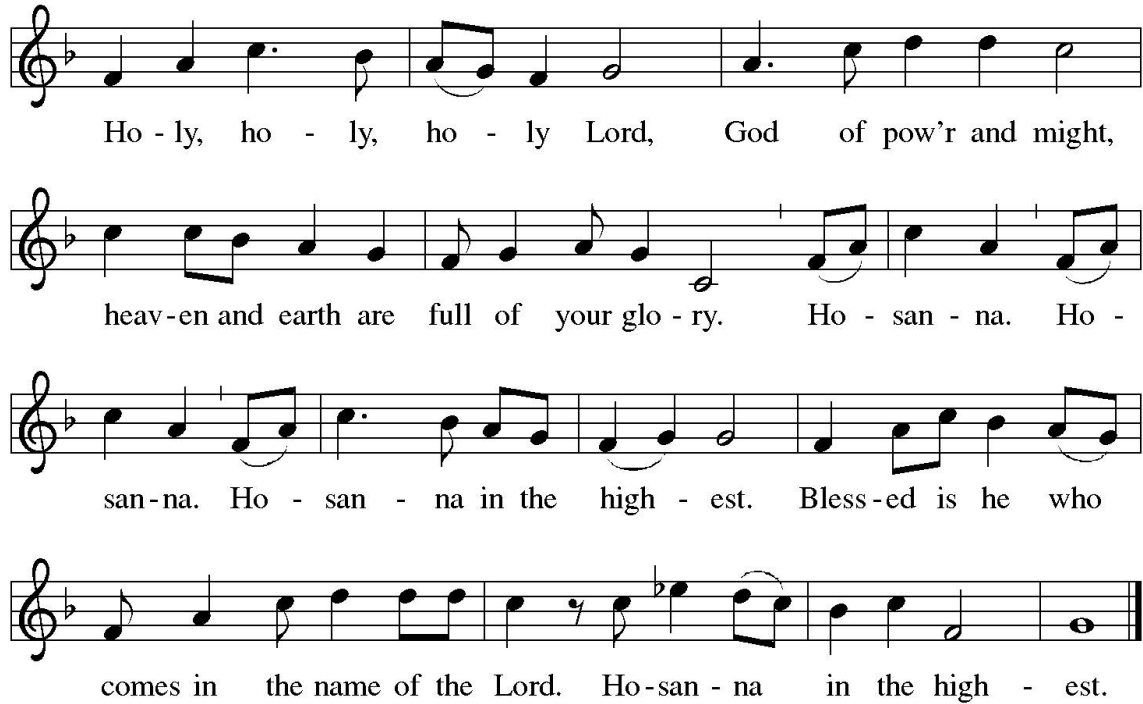
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with various rests and phrasing slurs.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

O God most mighty,
O God most merciful,
O God our rock and our salvation,
hear us as we praise,
call us to your table,
grant us your life.

When the world was a formless void,
you formed order and beauty.
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
you sent them a child.
When the Israelites were enslaved,
you led them to freedom.
Ruth faced starvation,
David faced Goliath.
and the psalmists cried out for healing,
and full of compassion,
you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
He was born among the poor,
he lived under oppression,
he wept over the city.
With infinite love,
he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup
is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death,
we cry out Amen.

Amen!

Celebrating his resurrection,
we shout Amen.

Amen!

Trusting his presence
in every time and place,
we plead Amen.

Amen!

O God, you are Breath:
send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread:
feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine:
warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.
O God most majestic,
O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
Grant us such life,
the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever.
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.**

Instructions for Communion

This table of bread and wine has now been made ready.
So come to this table,
You who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been here long
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come and eat. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

Communion Distribution

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

Sending Song:

Go to the World
W&S 3158 – verses 1-4

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

Pastor Miranda Bermes

M-W 9-1, or by appointment

spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant

Tuesday 10-1

Attributions

Call to Worship – posted on the Presbyterian Church USA website.

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/mlk-resources.pdf

Prayer of the Day - Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2024.

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