

# Spirit of Grace

ELCA UMC



October 20th, 2024  
22nd Sunday after Pentecost

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Blessed be the One who weaves our lives together

**In God's wisdom, all things were created to move in perfect harmony**

Every creature, great and small, a sacred part of the whole

**Each bearing unique gifts, endowed by our Creator**

For the sake of collective life, the Spirit of God draws us towards one another

Hymn of the Season

A Place at the Table  
W&S 3149 – verses 1, 3, 5

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us.**  
**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,**  
**but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**  
**The cravings at war within us**  
**cause conflicts and disputes.**  
**In our desire to be first**  
**we make distinctions among ourselves.**  
**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**  
**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**  
**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,**  
**and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,**  
**our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved Siblings in Christ,  
God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven.  
**Amen.**

Centering Hymn

Make Me a Servant  
TFWS 2176 – sung three times through

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.

Almighty God, you came to us in Jesus of Nazareth to show us what true power looks like. Help us to model your example of servant leadership, finding safety and security in community with one another as we seek to live out your beloved Kindom on earth. In the name of Christ we pray.

**Amen.**

First Reading: Hebrew 5:1-10

Every high priest taken from among the faithful is appointed on their behalf to deal with the things of God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. The high priest is able to deal patiently with erring sinners, being likewise beset by weakness – and so must make personal sin offerings as well as those for the people. One doesn't take on this honor by one's own initiative, but only when called by God, as Aaron was. Even Christ didn't presume to take on the office of high priest. Christ was appointed high priest by the One who said,

“You are my Own;  
today I have begotten you”;  
and in another place,  
“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days when he was in flesh, Jesus offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to God, who was able to save him from death, and Jesus was heard because of his reverence. Firstborn though he was, Jesus learned to obey through suffering. But having been made perfect, Jesus became, for all who obey, the source of eternal salvation, and he was designated by God to be a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 91:9-16

Though a thousand may deride this radical trust,  
ten thousand laugh as I seek to do your Will,

**Yet will I surrender myself to You,  
abandoning myself into your Hands without reserve.**

For You have sent your angels to watch over me,  
to guide me in all my ways.

**On their hands, they will bear me up,  
lest I dash my foot against a stone.**

Though I walk among those who roar like a lion,  
or are as stealthy as the adder,  
in your strength will I endure.

**“Because you cleave to Me in love,  
I will deliver you;  
I will protect you, who call upon my Name.**

When you call to Me, I will answer you;  
I will be with you in times of trouble,  
I will rescue you so that you will know my Peace,

**All through the years will I dwell in your heart,  
as Loving Companion Presence, forever.”**

Gospel: Mark 10:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 10th chapter.

They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way. The disciples were baffled by this move, while the other followers were afraid. Taking the Twelve aside once more, Jesus began to tell them what was going to happen.

“We are on our way up to Jerusalem where the Promised One will be handed over to the chief priests and the religious scholars. Then the Promised One will be condemned to death and handed over to the Gentiles to be mocked, spat upon, flogged, and finally killed. Three days later, the Promised One will rise.”

Zebedee’s children, James and John, approached Jesus. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to grant our request.”

“What is it?” Jesus asked.

They replied, “See to it that we sit next to you, one at your right and one at your left, when you come into your glory.”

Jesus told them, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I will drink or be baptized into the same baptism as I?”

“We can,” they replied.

Jesus said in response, “From the cup I drink of, you will drink; the baptism I am immersed in, you will share. But as for sitting at my right or my left, that is not mine to give; it is for those to whom it has been reserved.”

The other ten, on hearing this, became indignant at James and John.

Jesus called them together and said, “You know how among the Gentiles those who exercise authority are domineering and arrogant; those ‘great ones’ know how to make their own importance felt. But it can’t be like that with you. Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest; whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all. The Promised One has come not to be served, but to serve – to give one life in ransom for the many.”

Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda P. Bermes

Hymn of the Day

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant  
ELW 659 – verses 1-5

## Affirmation of Faith

*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

Holding all of the hopes, joys, prayers, and concerns of our community in our hearts, let us pray together by the power of the Holy Spirit for the church, God's creation, and all who are in need this day.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, we give thanks for all servant leaders of the church. Bless bishops, pastors, and deacons (local leaders may be named) with humble wisdom and ground them in your love.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creative One, we give thanks for the delicate balance of the natural world. Kindle in us a spirit of caring strength in the preservation of habitats, food availability, and centers of refuge, that all wildlife may thrive.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Empowering One, fill the leaders of governments with a spirit of service that prioritizes those on the margins due to job loss, underemployment, unsafe working conditions, and immigration status. May economic equity be achieved for all people.

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Restoring One, send your angels to watch over, rescue, and protect those who are injured or ill. Nurse those who suffer hardship, disease, injury, or difficulty with your comfort and peace.

*We pray especially for all victims of war and violence, especially for those enduring the acts of genocide in Palestine and surrounding areas. Protect those who care for the victims of violence, and send your Spirit of comfort to rest on those consumed by hopelessness and despair. Let the ways of war and conflict cease so that the wisdom of peace and understanding may be heard.*

God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Into your hands, O Gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Offering

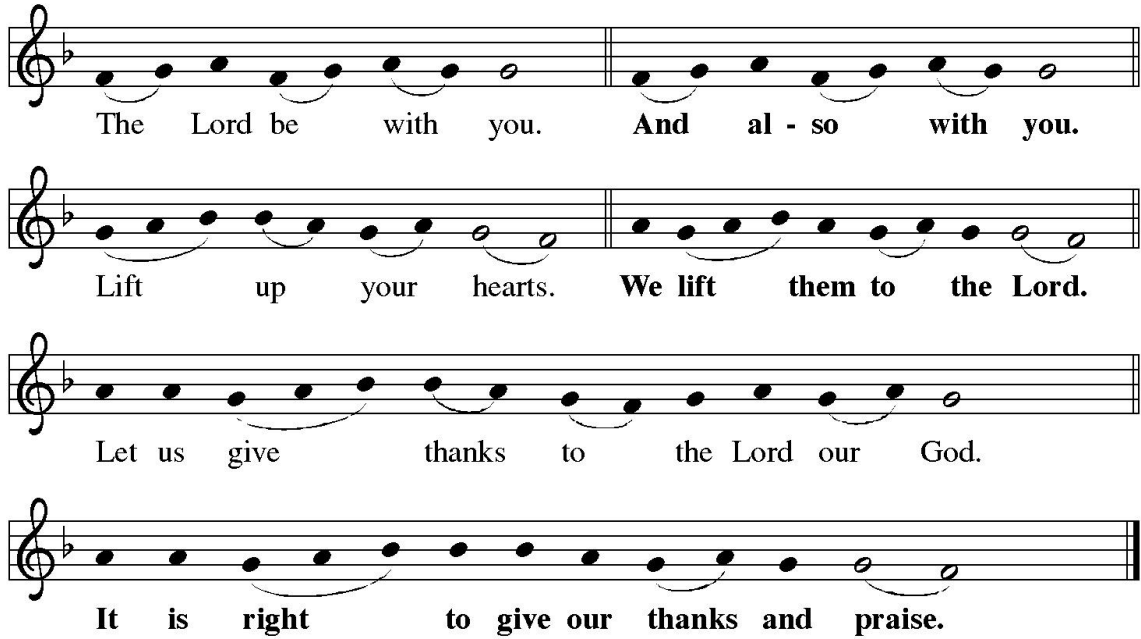
*At this time, if you are willing and able, please consider giving to Spirit of Grace Church to support our ongoing ministry. Checks can be mailed to 1140 Tucker Road, Hood River OR, 97031. Online Donations can be made through the link below:*

[Spirit of Grace Church](#)

## Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**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.

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.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears...

...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth  
from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Christ Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,  
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup  
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of Freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,  
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live  
in the freedom and hope of your Son.  
Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty God, 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

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Sending Song:

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve  
*ELW 551 – verses 1-4*

Blessing

The blessing of God,  
The Creator who made us for one another,  
The Christ who taught us to love one another,  
and the Spirit who draws us back to one another,  
‡ 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](mailto:spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com)

**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**

Tuesday 10-1

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Affirmation of Faith – A New Creed - Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada