

# *Spirit of Grace* ELCA UMC



March 9th, 2025

*Lent I*

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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.**

Hymn of the Season

In the Midst of New Dimensions  
TFWS 2238 – verses 1-3

## Confession & Forgiveness

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

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved Siblings in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.  
In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.  
You have a place in God's house forever.  
Amen.

Centering Hymn

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days  
*ELW 319 – 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 the wilderness,

You call us to meet you on the margins – in the desert places where you have abided with your people for generations. Give us the courage to leave behind what is known and familiar for the sake of true presence with Christ and beloved community in our neighbors. In the name of Christ who calls us, and through the Spirit who leads us, we pray.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Once you have entered the land that YHWH, your God, is giving to you as your inheritance, and you have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land that YHWH, your God, is giving to you, and put them in a basket. Take them to the place which YHWH, your God, will choose as a dwelling place for God's Name and say to the priest in office at that time, "This day I declare to YHWH, our God, that I have come to the land YHWH swore to our ancestors to give to us." The priest will then receive the basket from you and will set it in front of the altar of YHWH.

Then you will declare before YHWH, "My ancestor was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien. There they became a nation great, strong and numerous. When the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labor upon us, we cried to YHWH, the God of our ancestors, who heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil and our oppression. YHWH brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; YHWH gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, I have brought now the first fruits of the products of the soil that you, O God, have given me." Then you must set them before YHWH and bow down before YHWH. Then you all, along with the Levites, and the foreigner that live among you, will feast on all the good things that YHWH, your God, has given to you and your household.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 91

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High  
and pass the night in the shadow of Shaddai,  
**say, "YHWH, my refuge and my mountain fortress,  
my God in whom I trust!"**

For YHWH says: "I will rescue you from the snare,  
and shield you from poisoned arrows.

**I will cover you with my pinions;  
under my wings you will take refuge;  
my faithfulness will shield you.**

You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night  
or the arrow that flies by day,

**the plague that lurks in the shadows  
or the scourge that stalks at noon.**

Though a thousand fall at your left side  
and ten thousand at your right,  
it will never come near you.

**You will see it pass you by,  
and witness the punishment of the corrupt  
with your own eyes.**

Because you have made me your refuge  
and have me as your stronghold,  
**no evil will befall you,  
and no disaster will come near your tent.**

For I will command my angels  
to guard you wherever you go.

**They'll carry you in their hands  
so you don't hurt your foot on a stone.**

You'll tread on the young lion as easily as one does a cobra;  
you'll trample down both lion and serpent.

**Because you love me, I will deliver you;  
I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.**

You will call upon me, and I will answer you;  
I will be with you in trouble;

I will deliver you and honor you.

**I will satisfy you with a long life  
and show you my salvation."**

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.

[After his baptism] Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and she led him into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the Devil. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished.

The Devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Own, command this stone to turn into bread." Jesus answered, "Scripture has it, 'We don't live on bread alone.'"

Then the Devil took Jesus up higher and showed him all the nations of the world in a single instant. The Devil said, "I'll give you all the power and the glory of these nations; the power has been given to me and I can give it to whomever I wish. Prostrate yourself in homage before me, and it will all be yours."

In reply, Jesus said, "Scripture has it:  
'You will worship the Most High God;  
God alone will you adore.'"

Then the Devil led Jesus to Jerusalem, set him up on the parapet of the Temple and said, "If you are God's Own, throw yourself down from here, for scripture has it,  
'God will tell the angels to take care of you;  
with their hands they'll support you,  
that you may never stumble on a stone.'"

Jesus said to the Devil in reply, "It also says, 'Do not put God to the test.'"

When the Devil had finished all this tempting, Jesus was left alone. The Devil awaited another opportunity.

Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Miranda P. Bermes

Hymn of the Day

When We Are Tested  
*ACS 922 – verses 1-4*

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

*Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith in God together using the words of our common creed:*

**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 our worship video 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.

Kyrie — *TFWS 2275*

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus.  
God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations.  
God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one.  
God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share.  
God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love.  
God, in your mercy,  
**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](#)

## Litany of Offering & Commitment

God of the wilderness,  
We give these offerings in gratitude,  
**rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.**  
We give these offerings in faith,  
**trusting that you will provide for our needs.**  
We give these offerings in hope,  
**knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.**  
And with these offerings, we give ourselves;  
**May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. 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:

Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
*UMH 474 – verses 1-3*

Blessing

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless 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 Thursdays & Fridays**  
**Pastor Miranda Bermes-Goller**

M-W 9-12, or by appointment  
[spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com](mailto:spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com)  
**Linda Boris, Pastoral Assistant**  
Tuesday 10-1

### Attributions

*Call to Worship: written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies.*  
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

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*Offering Litany: written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her Spacious Faith blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>*