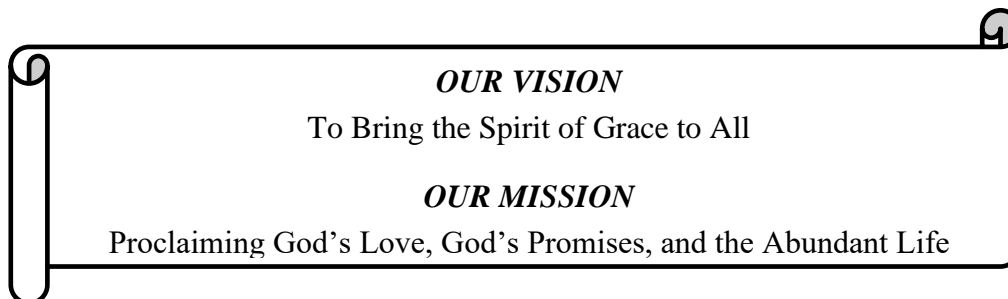


SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 22 & 23, 2023
8th Sunday of Pentecost

Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace
Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary E Benson



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: “Breathe” Fred Bornhoeft

INVOCATION

P: We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!
C: Amen.

GATHERING LITANY (based on Psalm 145:15-16, Isaiah 55:1-3)

P: Lord, the eyes of all turn to you.
C: We turn to you longing to be filled.
P: We turn to you to eat the Bread of Life.
C: We turn to you to taste your goodness and live.
P: May this time together in your presence nourish our hearts and minds.
C: May it strengthen our relationship with you and one another.
P: May it renew our commitment to live in this world as Your faithful disciples.
C: For You alone are God, the Source and Sustainer of life. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “Morning Has Broken”

Morning has broken like the first morning; / blackbird has spoken like the first bird. / Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! / Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, / like the first dewfall on the first grass. / Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, / sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning, / born of the one light Eden saw play! / Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning, / God's recreation of the new day!

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “This Is the Day”

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING: “I’ll Fly Away” Sandy Hobbs

PSALM 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death. The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes. But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth. Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid. Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE READING: Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself

will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? / You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

P: The gospel of the Lord,

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: “Separating the Wheat from the Weeds”

..... *Bruce Belanger, Synodically Authorized Minister*

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Day by Day”

Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me, / bringing comfort to my anxious soul. / Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me / draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal. / Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, / brings to naught the burdens of my quest; / Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, / where at last I'll find eternal rest.

Day by day, I know you will provide me / strength to serve and wisdom to obey; / I will seek your loving will to guide me / o'er the paths I struggle day by day. / I will fear no evil of the morrow, / I will trust in your enduring grace. / Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow / till in glory I behold your face.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me / when my burdens grow too great to bear; / oh, what joy to know that you will hear me / when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. / Day by day, no matter what betide me, / you will hold me ever in your hand. / Savior, with your presence here to guide me, / I will reach at last the promised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, b. 1936; Tr. (c) 1992 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – After each petition: Lord, in your mercy, “Hear our prayer”

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

C: Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world. Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING AND PRAYER

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

P: We thank you, generous God,

C: for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Blest be the tie that binds / our hearts in Christian love; / the unity of heart and mind / is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne / we pour our ardent prayers; / our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, / our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, / our mutual burdens bear, / and often for each other flows / the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, / and sin we shall be free; / and perfect love and friendship reign / through all eternity.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Scripture Reader: Robert “RJ” Misata

Hymn Singers: Bruce Belanger, Karen Boeck, Cathy Pierce, Terry Pierce

Audio & Visual: Jerry Huston

*****Announcements & Upcoming Events*****

WELCOME SESSIONS – are an opportunity for new and long-time visitors to learn why our church exists and how you can be more connected and committed to our ministry. You will meet other prospective members, learn about our mission and vision, and our various ministries. Our next Welcome Session is Monday, August 14th, at 10:00 am. So that we may have sufficient materials, please call the church office (623-977-6000, ext. 100) to register. Hope to see you there!

HUNGER DOES'NT TAKE A VACATION! – Be a part of Spirit of Grace's civic engagement ministry by sorting food for hungry families at the air conditioned Valley View Community Food Bank on Saturday, August 5th, from 9am -11am. Contact Marsha.Gilford@gmail to sign up.

INTERESTED IN CPR TRAINING? – Contact Faith Community Nurse Deborah Frusciano at 623-977-6000, ext. 140 or via email: deborah@spiritofgrace.com.

SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 22nd - July 30th

Saturday, July 22

5:00 pm Worship Service

Sunday, July 23

9:00 am Worship Service

Monday, July 24

No Activities

Tuesday, July 25

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only
with Dr Joe Dramise

1:00 pm Library Ministry

4:00 pm Joyful Spirit Singers

Wednesday, July 26

9:00 am Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only
with Dr Joe Dramise

Thursday, July 27

11:00 am Staff Meeting

Friday, July 28

9:30 am Bulletin Assembly

Saturday, July 29

5:00 pm Worship Service

Sunday, July 30

9:00 am Worship Service

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