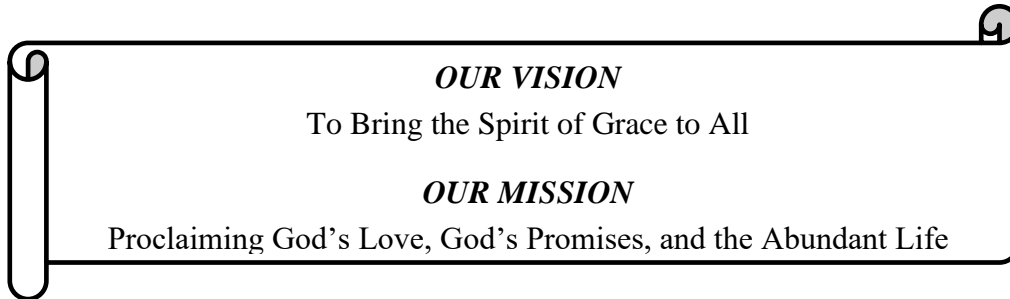


SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**July 29 & 30, 2023
9th Sunday of Pentecost**

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



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: “Beauty of Holiness” Sandy Hobbs

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: “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Open now thy gates of beauty, / Zion, let me enter there, / where my soul in joyful duty / waits for God who answers prayer. / Oh, how blessed is this place, / filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before thee; / come thou also unto me; / where we find thee and adore thee, / there a heav'n on earth must be. / To my heart, oh, enter thou, / let it be thy temple now!

Thou my faith increase and quicken, / let me keep thy gift divine; / howsoe'er temptations thicken, / may thy word still o'er me shine / as my guiding star through life, / as my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, / let thy will be done indeed; / may I undisturbed draw near thee / while thou dost thy people feed. / Here of life the fountain flows; / here is balm for all our woes.

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: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING: “Give Thanks” Sandy Hobbs

PSALM 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart. When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments. Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name. Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me. Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments. Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes. My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE READING: Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:31-33, 44-52

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: The gospel of the Lord,

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

SERMON: "From Small Beginnings" *Bruce Belanger, Synodically Authorized Minister*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Be Thou My Vision"

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; / naught be all else to me, save that thou art: / thou my best thought both by day and by night, / waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; / I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. / Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r, / raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, / thou mine inheritance, now and always: / thou and thou only, the first in my heart, / great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won, / may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun! / Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, / still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish 8th-10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt. Public Domain.

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: “Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

Savior, again to your dear name we raise / with one accord our parting hymn of praise; / once more we bless you ere our worship cease, / then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.

Grant us your peace upon our homeward way; / with you began, with you shall end the day; / guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame, / that in this house have called upon your name.

Grant us your peace, Lord, through the coming night; / for us transform its darkness into light. / Keep us from harm and danger till the dawn; / your evening presence promise to your own.

Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life, / our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife; / then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease, / call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-1893, alt. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Scripture Reader: Lorri Mohrweis

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. *SOG volunteers will be joined by members of Luke Air Force Base in this ministry event!* Contact Marsha.Gilford@gmail to sign up.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Women of Spirit of Grace are invited to a Bible study on Thursday, August 10th, at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall with Noelle Nothelfer facilitating. The study will be from the July Gather magazine. It is under Session 3 of "Salvation Now." If you have not received your magazine, instructions will be sent out on how to get the study off the website. Copies will also be available on the day of the study. If you have any questions, contact Cathy Nicholson 303-907-0761.

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 29th - August 6th

Saturday, July 29

5:00 pm Worship Service

Sunday, July 30

9:00 am Worship Service

Monday, July 31

No Activities

Tuesday, August 1

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only
with Dr Joe Dramise

4:00 pm Joyful Spirit Singers

Wednesday, August 2

9:00 am Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only
with Dr Joe Dramise

Thursday, August 3

No Activities

Friday, August 4

9:30 am Bulletin Assembly

Saturday, August 5

Food Ingathering Donations

5:00 pm Worship Service

Sunday, August 6

Food Ingathering Donations

9:00 am Worship Service

WELCOME SESSIONS

Our next Welcome Session is Monday, August 14th, at 10:00 am. If you are planning to attend, please call the church office at 623-977-6000, ext. 100 so that we may have sufficient materials prepared. Hope to see you there!