

***SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**September 9 & 10, 2023**

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace**

**Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary E Benson**

***OUR MISSION***

Proclaiming God's Love, God's Promises, and the Abundant Life

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**    **“Since Jesus Came Into My Heart”**

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 105:1-4)

**P:** O give thanks to the Lord

**C:** **Call on God's name.**

**P:** Make known God's deeds among the peoples,

**C:** **Sing to the Lord, sing praises!**

**P:** Tell all his wonderful works.

**C:** **Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**       **“As We Gather at Your Table”**

As we gather at your table, / as we listen to your word, / help us know, O God, your presence; / let our hearts and minds be stirred. / Nourish us with sacred story / till we claim it as our own; / teach us through this holy banquet / how to make Love's vict'ry known.

Turn our worship into witness / in the sacrament of life; / send us forth to love and serve you, / bringing peace where there is strife. / Give us, Christ, your great compassion / to forgive as you forgave; / may we still behold your image / in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon / other guests to share that feast / where triumphant Love will welcome / those who had been last and least. / There no more will envy blind us / nor will pride our peace destroy, / as we join /with saints and angels, / to repeat the sounding joy.

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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: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## **MUSICAL OFFERING            “The Church One Foundation”**

Joyful Spirit Singers

## **THE READING            Romans 13:8-14**

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20**

If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along

with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

P: The gospel of the Lord,  
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON "I Am There"**

Pastor Scott Hackler

**HYMN OF THE DAY "Bind Us Together"**

Refrain

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together / with cords that cannot be broken. / Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord: / bind us together in love.

There is only one God. / There is only one King. / There is only one Body; / that is why we can sing:  
Refrain

You are the fam'ly of God. / You are the promise divine. / You are God's chosen desire, / you are the glorious new wine. Refrain

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**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: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.

**C: We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed with your love. Form us into the body of your beloved son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S SUPPER**

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: Blessed be your name, O God,

**C: for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

P: The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"**

"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. / Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. / In my love's baptismal river / I have made you mine forever. / Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. / Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. / Here you heard my dear Son's story, / here you touched him, saw his glory. / Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. / Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. / Here my Spirit's power filled you, / here my tender comfort stilled you. / Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful, and free."

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Reader  
Audio/ Lighting / Video Production  
Singers

Cathy Pierce  
Jerry Huston  
Terry Pierce, Cathy Pierce, Karen Boeck

### **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, Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, 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!

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

**PIZZA AND BINGO** – Sept 17<sup>th</sup> in Café Grace!! Tickets are available online through our website. Cost: \$10.00 non-refundable. Tickets will be available in the Narthex before the services.

**TREMBLE CLEFS CONCERT IS COMING** – tickets are free!! Save the date October 1<sup>st</sup>, at 3:00 pm here at Spirit of Grace.

**OCTOBERFEST** is right around the corner - - Cost \$25. Registration online begins Sept 14- Oct. 6.

#### **NEW EDITION GRIESHARE PROGRAM COMING THIS FALL**

We are pleased to present the new 4<sup>th</sup> edition GriefShare program this fall. Meetings are on Thursdays, Sept 7<sup>th</sup> - Nov 30, @10:00am-11:30am (exceptions: Oct 11, Nov 15 & 22 are Wednesdays). To Register, call Spirit of Grace at 623-977-6000 or [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) or Deborah Frusciano at 602-909-8369. You do not need to be a member of Spirit of Grace to participate in this program. A Donation of \$20 is requested to cover the cost of your GriefShare Workbook.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be returning on October 31<sup>st</sup>, the last Tuesday of October. It will be Halloween so lets have pumpkin muffins!! We are looking forward to another enjoyable and successful year of breakfast devotions for the men of Spirit of Grace. The staff are also looking for help in the kitchen preparing the delicious breakfast. If you'd like to help, please contact Paul Reichenbach. Sign up for the October 31<sup>st</sup> breakfast on the clip board in the Narthex will begin the first week of October.

**SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*September 9 - September 16*

**Saturday, September 9**

5:00 pm Worship Service

**Sunday, September 10**

9:00 am Worship Service

10:00 am Blood Pressure Checks

**Monday, September 11**

*No activities*

**Tuesday, September 12**

9:00 am Staff Meeting

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry\*

\*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

4:15 pm Joyful Spirit Singers

**Wednesday, September 13**

9:00 am Counseling Ministry\*

\*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

**Thursday, September 14**

10:00 am-11:30 am GriefShare

**Friday, September 15**

9:30 am Bulletin Assembly

**Saturday, September 16**

5:00 pm Worship Service

**Sunday, September 17**

9:00 am Worship Service