

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 30 & October 1, 2023

18th 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

"Sing Hallelujah "

Fred Bornhoeft

INVOCATION

We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

Amen.

GATHERING LITANY (based on Psalm 103)

From the deepest places of our being, praise the Lord.

Praise God's holy name, and do not forget all his blessings.

God Forgives our sins and heals our hurts.

God protects us from evil and adorns us with love and compassion.

God satisfies our desires with good things.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

From the deepest places of our being, praise the Lord.

Praise God's holy name.

GATHERING HYMN "As We Gather at Your Table"

As we gather at your table, / as we listen to your word, / help us know, 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

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin and the sin of humankind.

Steadfast and faithful God,

You have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us and all people back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

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

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

ANTHEM

"How Beautiful"

Joyful Spirit Singers

THE READING **Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life.

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 21:23-32**

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Calculations”

Pastor Scott Hackler

HYMN OF THE DAY **“Oh that the Lord would Guide My Ways.”**

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways / to keep his statutes still! / Oh, that my God would grant me grace / to know and do his will!

Order my footsteps by your word / and make my heart sincere; / let sin have no dominion, Lord, /but keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, / a stricter watch to keep; / and should I e'er forget your way, / restore your wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in your commands, / 'tis a delightful road; / nor let my head or heart or hands / offend against my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, 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

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

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

INVITATION

“Come to the Table of Mercy”

Come to the table of mercy, / prepared with the wine and the bread. / All who are hungry and thirsty, / come, and your souls will be fed. / Come at the Lord's invitation; / receive from his nail-scarred hand. / Eat of the bread of salvation; / drink of the blood of the Lamb.

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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.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

Amen

Blessed be your name, O God,

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

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN “Give to our Immortal Praise!”

Give to our God immortal praise! / Mercy and truth are all his ways. / Wonders of grace to God belong; / repeat his mercies in your song.

God sent his Son with pow'r to save / from guilt and darkness and the grave. / Wonders of grace to God belong; / repeat his mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown; / the King of kings with glory crown. / His mercies ever shall endure /when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERVING AS WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Director of Music	Fred Bornhoeft
Online Scripture Reader	Anne Ellenberger
Video Production	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, October 2nd, 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.

TODAY'S THE DAY!! TREMBLE CLEFS CONCERT is at 3:00pm, doors open at 2:30pm. Please remember a free will offering will be collected for the group concert. Tickets are available at the door. Handicap seating will be available.

NEW EDITION GRIEF SHARE PROGRAM

We are pleased to present the new 4th edition GriefShare program this fall. Meetings are on Thursdays, Sept 7th - 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 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.

OCTOBERFEST On Oct 22 at 4:30pm. Cost \$25. Tickets will be available before and after services. Checks only. Online Registration will be available for those who wish to use a credit card. **ONLINE REGISTRATION ENDS OCT. 6!**

MEN'S BREAKFAST will be returning on October 31st, the last Tuesday of October. It will be Halloween so let's 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. In October there will be a clipboard in the lobby to sign up.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY You are invited to join us, the WELCA ladies, for our Bible study kickoff for women on October 12 at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Scott will be leading our study. Hope to see you there.

SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR

September 30 - October 8

Saturday, September 30

5:00 pm Worship Service

Sunday, October 1

9:00 am Worship Service

3:00pm Tremble Clefs Concert

Monday, October 2

10:00 Welcome Session

Tuesday, October 3

9:00 am Staff Meeting

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

Wednesday, October 4

9:00 am Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

Thursday, October 5

10:00 am GriefShare

Friday, October 6

9:30 am Bulletin Assembly

Saturday, October 7

5:00 pm Worship Service

Sunday, October 8

9:00 am Worship Service