

**SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**November 25-26, 2023  
26<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 ANNOUNCEMENT**

**PRELUDE**

**"All Creatures of Our God and King"**

**Fred Bornhoeft**

**INVOCATION**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

**Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.**

Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong;

**we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;

**give thanks and bless God's holy name.**

Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting,

**whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**GATHERING HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"**

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! / Let angels prostrate fall; / bring forth the royal diadem / and crown him Lord of all. / Bring forth the royal diadem / and crown him Lord of all.

O seed of Israel's chosen race / now ransomed from the fall, / hail him who saves you by his grace / and crown him Lord of all. Hail him who saves you by his grace / and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe / on this terrestrial ball / to him all majesty ascribe / and crown him Lord of all. / To him all majesty ascribe / and crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng / we at his feet may fall! / We'll join the everlasting song / and crown him Lord of all. / We'll join the everlasting song / and crown him Lord of all.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are not awake for you. We are often not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings and to often do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

**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

## ANTHEM

**"On Eagles Wings"**

**Joyful Spirit Singers**

## FIRST READING Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

<sup>11</sup>For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice... <sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING    Ephesians 1:15-23**

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 25:31-46**

<sup>31</sup>When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

**SERMON**

**"If Christ is King..."**

**Pastor Scott Hackler**

**HYMN OF THE DAY "Jesus Shall Reign"**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun / does its successive journeys run; / his  
kingdom stretch from shore to shore, / till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns: / the pris'ners leap to lose their chains, / the  
weary find eternal rest, / and all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring / peculiar honors to our king; / angels descend  
with songs again, / and earth repeat the loud amen.

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

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942. Text © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695; Juniper Landing Music (admin. Word Music); and Word Music (ASCAP). Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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**

May God, who gives life to all things and frees us to live fully, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN      "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

Crown him with many crowns, / the Lamb upon his throne; / hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns / all music but its own. / Awake, my soul, and sing / of him who died for thee, / and hail him as thy matchless king / through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love / behold his hands and side, / rich wounds, yet visible above, / in beauty glorified. / No angels in the sky / can fully bear that sight, / but downward bend their burning eyes / at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of life, / who triumphed o'er the grave / and rose victorious in the strife / for those he came to save. / His glories now we sing, / who died and rose on high, / who died, eternal life to bring, / and lives that death may die.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903. Public Domain.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**Visitors, Guests and Friends!** Let us know that you are here by using this QR code. We are so happy that you have joined us in worship.



**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, December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10am - noon. 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).

***GRIEFSHARE***

GriefShare Meetings are on Thursdays @10:00am-11:30am. For information call Spirit of Grace at 623-977-6000 or Deborah Frusciano at 602-909-8369, or go to [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org). You do not need to be a member of Spirit of Grace to participate in this program.

***ADVENT GIVING TREE 2023 GIFT CARD COLLECTION:***

For this year's Advent Giving Tree, we will once again be sharing the light and hope of Advent with Military Families at Luke Air Force Base. We will be collecting gift cards and Christmas cards to give to the families. Thank you for your continued support of the Advent Giving Tree. Your prayers and generosity show our Military Families how much their service and sacrifice mean to our congregation. Please bring gift cards and Christmas cards by December 12. for further information Contact Deborah 623-977-6000 ext 140 or 602-909-8369 cell.

***COMFORT COVERS QUILTING GROUP*** will meet Tuesday November 28 from 9am-1:00pm.

***SPIRIT OF GRACE MEN'S BREAKFAST*** meets Tuesday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 8am. Don't forget to sign up in the lobby.

***CHRISTMAS DECORATING:***

We will be preparing the church for Advent and Christmas, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 9am-noon. We need many elves to help decorate the fellowship hall, narthex (lobby) and outdoors. Treats will be available for sustaining elf workers. Sign up on the clipboard in the narthex.

***SPRING BASEBALL***

The Fellowship Team has obtained 125 reserved tickets in the Legion's Section of the Surprise Stadium for the March 7<sup>th</sup> baseball game between AZ Diamondbacks and TX Rangers. The cost of \$52 includes food and drink. Tickets will go on sale in lobby Dec 2 & 3. CHECKS ONLY!

***CAROLING/SOUP SUPPER***

December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm Cost \$10. Tickets are available today in the lobby. Checks only.

***AVAILABLE NOW IN SOG'S LIBRARY***

Copies of Pastor Vern Anderson's 2016 presentations on the Quran and the three divisions of Muslim people in the world. (Pastor Vern is a former SOG Senior Pastor.) The CDs are now available for check out.

## **THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BREAKFAST**

Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is Sunday, January 14. Tickets are on sale at [www.spiritofgrace.com](http://www.spiritofgrace.com). They will also be available before and after worship services November 18 & 19 and November 25 & 26. The cost of the tickets is \$25. Checks only. Thank you for all the generous contributions to support the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**GIFTS OF HOPE**—As we reflect on our own blessings this Thanksgiving weekend, we hope you will consider a donation of Gift #7—School Lunches for Refugee and Displaced Children. For \$100 the St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) in Cairo, Egypt can feed 220 school children. For more than 30 years, the ELCA has supported humanitarian aid for individuals and families who have been forcibly displaced from their homelands. With economic inflation here and around the world, this is an amazing way to make a difference. Other options for donations are listed on the Donation Form on the GOH table in the Narthex. The campaign runs through January 5th.

### ***SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR*** ***November 25 – December 3***

#### **Saturday, November 25**

5:00 pm Worship Service

#### **Sunday, November 26**

9:00 am Worship Service

#### **Monday, November 27**

#### **Tuesday, November 28**

8:00 am Men's Breakfast  
9:00 am Staff Meeting  
9:00 WELCA Quilters  
12:00 pm Counseling Ministry  
\*By appointment only  
with Dr Joe Dramise  
1:30 pm 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal  
4:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

#### **Wednesday, November 29**

9:00 am Counseling Ministry\*  
\*By appointment only  
with Dr Joe Dramise

#### **Thursday, November 30**

10:00 am GriefShare

#### **Friday, December 1**

9:00 am Christmas Decorating

#### **Saturday, December 2**

5:00 pm Worship Service

#### **Sunday, December 3**

9:00 am Worship Service