

***SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**August 28 & 29, 2021  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

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

***OUR VISION***

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Sing Hallelujah”** ..... Fred Bornhoeft

**INVOCATION**

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

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: “My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”**

My God, how wonderful thou art, / thy majesty how bright! / How beautiful thy mercy seat / in depths of burning light!

How wonderful, how beautiful / the sight of thee must be – / thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r, / and awesome purity!

No earthly father loves like thee; / no mother, e'er so mild, / bears and forbears as thou hast done / with me, thy sinful child.

My God, how wonderful thou art, / thou everlasting friend! / On thee I stay my trusting heart / till faith in vision end.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863. Public Domain.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Gracious God, our provider, help us.

**C: Too often we live as though your blessings and provisions are scarce. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. Turn us always to you. Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

**P:** Beloved people of God, Jesus has turned to you. He is the manna from heaven that comes to feed and nourish you. He is the worker of miracles and the Bread of Life who provides more than enough. He is God's mercy and through him you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**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 God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” . . . . . Fred Bornhoeft**

**THE READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

**THE PSALM: Psalm 15**

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill? Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart; they do not slander with the tongue, they do not evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor. In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word. They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)**

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

**THE GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes

asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

**SERMON: “We have seen the enemy and he is us!”** . . . . . *Pastor Scott Hackler*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”** (*Sing 2 Times*)

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word. / Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood. / When my heart is hard, break the stone away. / When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. / When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. / Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord let my heart be good soil.

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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**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Lord God, your gracious gifts sustain us.  
C: **Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**THE LORD’S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he come to us in his holy supper.  
C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**  
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.

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

**C: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Strengthen us in this meal and make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord Jesus, you teach us to pray:

**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.

Let us pray,

O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN: "We Praise You, O God"**

We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator; / in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. / We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; / we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers; / through trial and tempest our guide you have been. / When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us, / and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer / and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. / With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us. / To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963, alt. Public Domain.

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Scripture Reader: Cindy Mooney

Hymn Vocalists: Karen Boeck, Cathy Pierce, Terry Pierce, Candace Renwall

Audio & Lighting: Jim Miller

Producer & Editor: 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, September 13<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!

**GRIEFSHARE** – This program focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally-respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Your workbook will reinforce the weekly session topics. Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort, and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future. You do not need to be a member of Spirit of Grace to attend.

GriefShare will be held Thursdays, August 5 - October 28, 10:00-11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Each session is independent of the other. *You can start anywhere in the 13-week cycle and make up missed sessions in the next cycle.* A donation of \$15.00 is requested to cover the cost of your GriefShare Workbook. To register call the church office at 623-977-6000 or contact Deborah Frusciano 602-909-8369. Learn more about GriefShare at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org).

**LIBRARY MINISTRY** – is for those who desire to create a welcoming space for materials that inspire, stimulate, and support members and visitors of Spirit of Grace. All who feel called to share their love of reading are invited to our organizational meeting on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**JOYFUL SPIRIT SINGERS – SOG CHOIR IS BACK!** – Come one, come all: This is an open invitation to everyone who loves to sing God's praises to join the choir. The first rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 4:15 pm and our first performance will be Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our first rehearsal and know it will be a joyous time! We will also welcome our new accompanist, Henry (Hank) Halon at rehearsal. Hank will be introduced to the congregation on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Choir Director, Ken Carnes, at 402-217-9274 with any questions.

**WELCOME BACK SOCIAL** – will be Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The afternoon will start with Bingo and *great prizes* and end with sundaes from the #1, world-famous, Surprise's own Handel's Homemade Ice Cream! They will also bring sugar-free ice cream. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased after worship services September 4 & 5, 11 & 12, 18 & 19 and at the office during normal business hours. Don't miss out on the fun!!!

**SPIRIT OF GRACE NAME TAGS AVAILABLE** – Name tags are an important part of enhancing life at Spirit of Grace. They help us get connected to each other. If you are a regular visitor at Spirit of Grace, but not a registered member, name tags are now available to you. If you are a registered member and have lost your name tag, it can be replaced. There are order forms with instructions on the Welcome Counter. If you would like to help cover the cost of a name tag, the amount is on the form. Completed requests are to be submitted to the Church Office.

*Everyone is welcome to participate in all Spirit of Grace events and ministries:  
you do not need to be a registered member.*