

**SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**September 4 & 5, 2021  
15<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**

**TEMPLE TALK: “Welcome Back Social”** ..... Dorothy Carnes

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Cornerstone”** ..... Fred Bornhoeft

**INVOCATION**

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

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! / O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation! / Let all who hear / now to his temple draw near, / joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning / and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining. / Have you not seen / all that is needful has been / sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him! / All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him! / Let the amen / sound from his people again. / Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt. Public Domain.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Let us confess our sins to God, who welcomes us with an open heart.

**C: God our comforter: like lost sheep, we go astray. You provide for our every need, yet we see scarcity. You love all people, yet we fear and turn from those foreign to us. You fill the world with life, yet we get stuck thinking only of our life. Gracious God, open our eyes to see as you do. Free us to love our neighbor boldly. Loosen our tongues to speak your words of life. Amen.**

**P:** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God frees you. You are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Led by the Holy Spirit, go and carry out God's mission for the life of the world.

**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:** Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

**C: Amen**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “God Will Make a Way”** ..... Fred Bornhoeft

**THE READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

**P:** Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**THE PSALM: Psalm 145**

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help. When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish. Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God; who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever; who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked. The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

**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 7:24-37**

[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

**SERMON: "Children or Dogs"** ..... *Pastor Scott Hackler*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: "All Are Welcome"**

Let us build a house where love can dwell / and all can safely live, / a place where saints and children tell / how hearts learn to forgive. / Built of hopes and dreams and visions, / rock of faith and vault of grace; / here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

#### *Refrain*

All are welcome, all are welcome, / all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found / in water, wine and wheat: / a banquet hall on holy ground / where peace and justice meet. / Here the love of God, through Jesus, / is revealed in time and space; / as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*

Let us build a house where hands will reach / beyond the wood and stone / to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, / and live the Word they've known. / Here the outcast and the stranger / bear the image of God's face; / let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*

Let us build a house where all are named, / their songs and visions heard / and loved and treasured, taught and claimed / as words within the Word. / Built of tears and cries and laughter, / prayers of faith and songs of grace, / let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

### **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: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens.

**C: Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy, almighty and merciful God. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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: God of new life, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless our feast and grace our table with your presence. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and 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.

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world.  
The holy Trinity, one God, 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.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919; (c) 1983 Jaroslav J. Vajda. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Scripture Reader: Carlyle “Smitty” Smith

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.

**WELCA KICK-OFF BIBLE STUDY** – will be Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Scott will lead the study, “The Holy Spirit.” Not a member of a Bible study circle? This is an *excellent* opportunity to learn more about WELCA and the Bible studies. All women are invited to attend – no sign-up or registration required. Come and get acquainted with other women of Spirit of Grace!

**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.

**CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED** – Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. Normal hours of operation resume Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

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