

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 11 & 12, 2021

16th 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: “In the Presence of Jehovah” Fred Bornhoeft

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “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 prophets speak, / and words are strong and true, / where all God's children dare to seek / to dream God's reign anew. / Here the cross shall stand as witness / and as symbol of God's grace; / here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*

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 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*

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: O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Find Us Faithful" Fred Bornhoeft

THE READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9

I love the Lord, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication, for the Lord has given ear to me whenever I called. The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray you, save my life." Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion. The Lord watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me. Turn again to your rest, O my soul. for the Lord has dealt well with you. For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling; I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

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 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

SERMON: "Intriguing, Elusive, Captivating, and Crucial" *Pastor Scott Hackler*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

O Jesus, I have promised / to serve you to the end; / remain forever near me, / my master and my friend. / I shall not fear the battle / if you are by my side, / nor wander from the pathway / if you will be my guide.

Oh, let me feel you near me; / the world is ever near. / I see the sights that dazzle, / the tempting sounds I hear. / My foes are ever near me, / around me and within; / but, Jesus, then draw nearer / to shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear you speaking / in accents clear and still / above the storms of passion, / the murmurs of self-will. / Now speak to reassure me, / to hasten or control; / now speak and make me listen, / O Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised / to all who follow you / that where you are in glory / your servant shall be too. / And Jesus, I have promised / to serve you to the end; / oh, give me grace to follow, / my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, 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

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: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; / there is no shadow of turning with thee; / thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; / as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! / Morning by morning new mercies I see; / all I have needed thy hand hath provided; / great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, / sun, moon, and stars in their courses above / join with all nature in manifold witness / to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, / thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; / strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, / blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Scripture Reader: Sharon Bornhoeft

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 this **Monday, September 13th, 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.

WELCOME BACK SOCIAL – will be Sunday, September 26th, 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 now and through September 18 & 19 and at the office during normal business hours. Don’t miss out on the fun!!!

KINDRED SPIRITS – If you feel lonely or socially isolated, you are not alone. Increasing evidence shows that social isolation has a detrimental impact on an individual’s health and well-being. Kindred Spirits is an opportunity to reach out to others in the church community for support, comfort, and friendship. Join us on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Conference Room. The next meeting is September 22nd. No prior registration is required and you do not need to be a member of Spirit of Grace to participate. *Presented for educational purposes only.*

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.*