

**SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**September 18 & 19, 2021**

**17<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: “I Love to Tell the Story”** ..... 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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "What Faith Can Do" . . . . . Ken Carnes**

## THE READING: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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 9:30-37

[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill

him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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

**SERMON: “A Different Kind of Greatness”** ..... *Pastor Scott Hackler*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Children of the Heavenly Father”**

Children of the heav'nly Father / safely in his bosom gather; / nestling bird or star in heaven / such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish, / in his holy courts they flourish. / From all evil things he spares them, / in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever / from the Lord his children sever; / unto them his grace he showeth, / and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh, / God his children ne'er forsaketh; / his the loving purpose solely / to preserve them pure and holy.

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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: 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.

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## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Scripture Reader: Frank Fara

Hymn Vocalists: Ken Carnes, Tom Chambers, Candace Renwall, Sue Wilterdink

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, October 11<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 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).

**WELCOME BACK SOCIAL** – is *Sold Out!* If you were one of the fortunate ones to purchase a ticket, the doors open at 2:30 pm on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Watch the bulletin and information in the Narthex for the next Fellowship event, “Homecoming Tailgate” on Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be \$20 per person and will go on sale beginning October 2 & 3.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Conference Room. The next meeting is this Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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.*

**GRACE CHIMES** – If you read music and would like to play the chimes, Grace Chimes is looking for *you!* Rehearsals are every Tuesday, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Contact Barbara Stenberg at 623-544-8681 with any questions.

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