

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 25 & 26, 2021

18th 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: “We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise” 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 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*

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: Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC: "I Stand Here Forgiven" Fred Bornhoeft

THE READING: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at." Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery." So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you." So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: Psalm 19:7-14

The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple. The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can detect one’s own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults. Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

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 9:38-50

John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. “For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: “Powered By The Holy Spirit” *Bruce Belanger, Synodically Authorized Minister*

HYMN OF THE DAY: “We Are Called”

Come! Live in the light! / Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! / We are called to be light for the kingdom, / to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain

We are called to act with justice, / we are called to love tenderly; / we are called to serve one another, / to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! / Show your mercy to all those in fear! / We are called to be hope for the hopeless / so hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain*

Sing! Sing a new song! / Sing of that great day when all will be one! / God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters / and brothers united in love. *Refrain*

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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: Marianne White

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 11th, 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.

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 this Sunday, September 26th.

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.

FUND FOR LEADERS GOLF CLASSIC – Ladies and gentlemen golfers, please consider participating in the ELCA Fund For Leaders Golf Classic which provides funding for seminary graduates who have an average debt of \$54,000. The Fund is our commitment that these leaders are supported in their response to God's call and they are equipped to lead us in the future. The Entry Fee is \$150 per golfer which includes golf and cart, lunch, automatic entry in drawing, and a \$75 tax-deductible contribution to the ELCA Fund For Leaders. Gather your foursome and have a great time while supporting this very excellent cause!

- ❖ Fund For Leaders Golf Classic: Monday, November 15th
- ❖ Arrowhead Golf Course, 19888 N 73rd Avenue, Glendale
- ❖ 7:00 am Check-In and Warmup; 7:45 am Foursomes in Carts and Ready
- ❖ 8:00 am Shotgun Start, Scramble Format
- ❖ 12:00 pm Lunch & Program

Contact Chuck Kinney at 309-253-8853 or email to kinneycharles83@gmail.com for a Registration Form and more information. The deadline to register is Friday, October 15th.

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