

## **SPIRIT OF GRACE**

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost with Celebration of Holy Communion

September 5, 2021

The congregation's parts are in **bold**.

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

### **GATHERING SONG**

### **BLESSED BE YOUR NAME (Virtual Choir)**

Blessed be Your name

In the land that is plentiful

Where Your streams of abundance flow

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name

When I'm found in the desert place

Though I walk through the wilderness

Blessed be Your name

*Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise*

*When the darkness closes in Lord*

*Still I will say*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord*

*Blessed be Your name*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord*

*Blessed be Your glorious name*

Blessed be Your name

When the sun's shining down on me

When the world's all as it should be

Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name

On the road marked with suffering

Though there's pain in the offering

Blessed be Your name

You give and take away, You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name

CCLI Song # 3798438

Beth Redman | Matt Redman

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## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God our comforter:**

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**Amen.**

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion with the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. 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. **Amen.**

## **FIRST 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

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING**

**James 2:1-10, 14-17**

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

Open your hearts and your minds to the Good News as it is recorded in **Mark 7:24-37**.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

*Pastor Peggy Rose*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**FOR EVERYONE BORN**

For everyone born a place at the table  
For everyone born clean water and bread  
A shelter a space a safe place for growing  
For everyone born a star overhead

*And God will delight when we are creators  
Of justice and joy compassion and peace  
Yes God will delight when we are creators  
Of justice, justice and joy*

For woman and man a place at the table  
Revising the roles deciding the share  
With wisdom and grace dividing the power  
For woman and man a system that's fair

For young and for old a place at the table  
A voice to be heard a part in the song  
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled  
For young and for old the right to belong

For just and unjust a place at the table  
Abuser abused with need to forgive  
In anger in hurt a mindset of mercy  
For just and unjust a new way to live

For everyone born a place at the table  
To live without fear and simply to be  
To work to speak out to witness and worship  
For everyone born the right to be free

CCLI Song # 4065414

Shirley Erena Murray

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## **SPIRIT OF GRACE CREED (INTERGENERATIONAL CREED)**

**We believe in God, the Father, who is...**  
**Our Leader, Loving, Our Protector,**  
**Compassionate, Our Provider and Caring.**

**The Father ...**  
**Created Us, Gave Us Life and**  
**Gave Us Freedom of Choice.**

**We believe in God, the Son, who is...**  
**Holy, A Teacher, A Helper,**  
**A Friend, Giving and Thankful.**

**The Son...**  
**Puts Others Before Himself, Sacrifices Himself for Us,**  
**Is Obedient and Shines.**

**We believe in God, the Holy Spirit, who is...**  
**Invincible, Powerful, A Leader,**  
**Overwhelming, Amazing, Loving and Awesome.**

**The Holy Spirit...**  
**Picks You Up When You Are Down, Comforts You,**  
**Gives You a Shoulder to Cry On, Helps You Get Better,**  
**Provides Strength and Gives You Spirit. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Especially as we celebrate Labor Day, unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, particularly in Afghanistan; protect any who are in danger, particularly those in Haiti, the Gulf Coast, the Tennessee flooding, and the wildfires around the country; and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation especially our Blessing Box, the Backpacks for Kids project, and our new Diabetic Food Pantry. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We ask for your healing and strength especially for bugs, Joyce and Wilma and those we name in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together. **God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

*All are welcome at the table. It is God's Table and He gifts you with the finest He has. Please forward at the direction of the ushers. Our communion elements are prepackaged grape juice and wafer packets for your safety. We welcome you to enjoy the communion music during this time and strongly encourage you to wear a mask if you choose to sing along.*



*Refrain*



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your



2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is



3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,



4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

*Refrain*



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.



still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.



ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.



way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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## HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US (Virtual Choir)

How deep the Father's love for us  
 How vast beyond all measure  
 That He should give His only Son  
 To make a wretch His treasure  
 How great the pain of searing loss  
 The Father turns His face away  
 As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
 Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross  
 My sin upon His shoulders  
 Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
 Call out among the scoffers  
 It was my sin that held Him there  
 Until it was accomplished

His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

CCLI Song # 1558110

Stuart Townend

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## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

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. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SENDING SONG**

### **HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD**

The splendor of the King  
Clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice  
All the earth rejoice  
He wraps Himself in light  
And darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice  
And trembles at His voice

*How great is our God  
Sing with me  
How great is our God  
And all will see how great  
How great is our God*

And age to age He stands  
And time is in His hands  
Beginning and the End  
Beginning and the End  
The Godhead three in one  
Father Spirit Son  
The Lion and the Lamb  
The Lion and the Lamb

Name above all names  
Worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing  
How great is our God

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

