

We believe that God loves us without regard for our race or culture, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, physical or mental health, life circumstance or socio-economic situation. Therefore, we extend that same grace-filled love to you.

The work of welcome is hard; the way of love is always a work in process. But we're committed to the biblical call of reconciliation and to change what we need to, both personally and as a community, so that we – all of us together – become a living sign of God's extravagant grace.

In Christ's name, all are welcome here. We are honored by your presence and by your participation in helping us make this vision of welcome a reality for all people.

Our VISION is

"to be a Christ-centered

Community who welcomes all, grows in faith, and reaches out in love."

Our MISSION is

"to follow Christ into our community and world manifesting with caring hearts and helping hands the good news of the Kingdom of God."



**Whoever you are, Whatever your past,
However you live, Whomever you love –
You are welcome here.**



Worship in the Park Sunday, June 6, 2021 - 10 am Starker Arts Park

Grace Lutheran Church is excited to announce the first in person Worship in the Park on Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 10am.

Covid-19 protocols will be in place to keep all who attend safe and healthy. Masks and Social Distancing will be required for all.

Please bring your own chair or blanket to enjoy the service.

No pre-registration required, but signing in will take place on site.

There will be no pre-recorded or live stream worship service on June 6.

Prayers

This prayer list is a compilation of the requests we have received at Grace throughout the month of April. For a more timely update to the prayers, send your email address to prayers@grace97330.org, and ask to be part of the prayer list.

Prayers

- ⇒ Darlene and Jim
- ⇒ Helen
- ⇒ Clark, Pr. Netsie's Nephew
- ⇒ Bev
- ⇒ Shane
- ⇒ Dan and Savannah
- ⇒ Shirley
- ⇒ Heather and Family, former employee at Grace
- ⇒ Dave, friend of Cathy
- ⇒ Oliver, Rachel's neighbor

Deaths:

- ⇒ Roberta (Bobbie)
- ⇒ Van

Giving at a Glance

Support the many ministries of
Grace Lutheran

Contributions as of May 13, 2021

Contributions for the Month of May: \$12,897;
May's Budget: \$27,100;
First half of May Giving: \$12,897;
Weekly Budget: \$6,775;
YTD contributions: \$121,324;
YTD budget: \$136,950

Grace Personnel

Interim Pastor—Dorothy Nielsen

Bookkeeper - Robin Comforto

Custodian - Outside Contractor

Director of Discipling Ministries - Donna King

Director of Music Ministries - Bryson Skaar

Facebook Administrator - Rebekah Hadlock

Financial Secretary: Mary Stephens

Nursery - Mackenzie & Rachel Burnett,
Christina Lundahl, Katie Olsen & Melissa Smith

Office Administrator - Andrea Barnhurst

Office Assistant - Jody Parker

Organist/Pianist - Sunghee Kim

Percussion - Kelsey Bleck

Prayer Chain - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens

Youth and Family Minister— Kristin Young

If you would like a visitation or to schedule an appointment with a member of the ministerial staff, please call the office at 541.757.1600. You are welcome to leave a message on the answering machine at any hour.

Visit our Grace web page at: www.grace97330.org

Teams & Committees

Property Committee - Ron Larson, 541.752.0754

Communications Committee

Bob Keith, 541.990.2883

Sunday Hospitality

Dayle Christensen, 541.602.2818

Events Hospitality

Molly Hallgrimson, 541.753.8581

Christian Education Team

Deaconess Donna King, 541.757.6636

Altar Guild - Linda Samuels, 541.929.4222

Worship & Music Committee

Michael Beachley, 541.754.5501

Finance Committee - Hal Brauner, 541.753.0023

Personnel Committee - Nancy Strohlein,
541.926.5747

Hospital Visitation Team - Dale Weber,
541.757.3043

Healing Prayer Team - Sue Davis, 541.924.2922

Mission Groups - Bob Saathoff, 541.929.3045

Stewardship Committee

Dave Lundahl, 541.757.1358

Campus Ministry at Luther House

Mike Ostrom, Pastor, 541.753.5213

Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555



Dear People of God at Grace,

The Holy Spirit is on the move, blowing in and through us...

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit..." Acts 2:4. What does this mean?

"In the last days...God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams..." Acts 2:17 What does this mean?

This is exciting and scary...God's Spirit is being poured out on ALL FLESH! That means God's Spirit is at work in and through people who are NOT like us! What could that mean for the Church? How do we hear their stories, their dreams, their visions?

Listening is an art. I have been learning more about listening. One of the things I have learned is to listen for the prayer of a person's heart. This takes deep listening and asking questions. Listening doesn't mean waiting your turn to tell your opinions or whatever. When we listen to someone, we honor and value them, as they are by God.

Our Bishop Laurie frequently uses "beloveds" when she addresses the rostered leaders on Wednesdays during our meetings. At first I was reacting, "Oh no, what is she doing? Why this kind of language?" After a while that word really worked on me. I am reminded that each and every one of us is "beloved" and listening became easier. Then came the challenge to listen for the prayer of the heart of the one speaking. Whew! That takes deep listening, beyond the words. That takes listening with love, listening with your heart.

As we emerge from our cloistered lives of the past 16 months, where do our ears need to be listening? There are many beloveds we need to listen to, in order to hear their dreams, their hopes, their visions. Whether they are Christians or not is of no matter. What matters is listening to those who are on the edges. They see things, they know things, they dream things. And we need to hear these stories, and the prayers of their hearts.

During Synod Assembly, Rev Raphael Malpica Padilla from the ELCA Global Missions unit unpacked Jesus' parable of the Lost Sheep. He spoke of how words can tell us something beyond first reading. He said the shepherd went looking for the lost sheep, leaving the 99 behind to go looking. The 99 were lost without the missing one. Not to be all the same, but the 99 needed that one restored to be whole.

What if deep listening to the beloveds on the edges will bring us wholeness? What if we are lost without the one that is beyond our gathering? Could it be that the one who wandered away saw something that we need? Maybe we chased that one away because they weren't the "right kind" of sheep?

What if those who are on the edges of our communities are able to hear God in a different way than we do, and can see God's dreams, God's visions for us, for the Church? In these days of the Spirit's movement, during this transition time and weird pandemic time, and many of us are not hearing God's dreams and visions, or see things a bit differently. It is time to listen deeply to the dreams and visions of our outlier sibilings, beloveds of God, because God is wanting our attention, guiding our calling and mission in the world through listening to all whom God's Spirit has been pour out upon.

These are exiting and scary times. Yet God has not abandoned us. God is spreading the dreams and visions for what we can be, what difference we can make by sharing God's story and the prayer of God's heart for this world. That will not look like the church we have been used to being. The Spirit is blowing, God is at work. Let us dream and imagine God's vision for this time.

Pastor Dorthy+

Pastor Dorthy Nielsen

Contact Information

Cell: 541-377-1354

Email:

prdorthy@grace97330.org

Pastor Dorthy's

On Site Working Days

Thursday & Sunday

Off Site Working Days

*Monday - Wednesday &
Saturday*

UPDATE FROM YOUR TRANSITION TEAM

Thanks to those of you who completed the Historical Survey. Your Transition Team is gathering information needed to prepare the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) document which will give a pastoral candidate a picture of who Grace is and lays out the qualities we are seeking in a new pastor. The call committee will use the MSP during the interview process. Your survey responses will help “take the temperature” of the Grace community and guide the selection process.

Your memories of events and experiences at Grace have shown what GLC has meant to you over the years. Many of you remembered social events such as the Annual Harvest Festival, salmon bakes, Partners in Faith evenings, Advent Soup Suppers, Bible study groups, family camps, Thanksgiving Eve worship and pie social, Women’s circles, Women of Grace, Scandinavian dinners, the children’s annual Nativity Pageant, and Luther League.

Grace members have always served within the church as musicians and choir members, Sunday school teachers, altar guild members, ushers, and communion servers, to name a few. Many remembered Grace’s involvement in community outreach and mission projects: Vina Moses Center, Grace Center, Ida Fund, hospitality and event planners, the church library, The Miracle on Kings and Harrison, Thanksgiving baskets, God’s Work Our Hands, volunteering at the men’s and women’s shelters, providing sack lunches for drop-ins, Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers. The Social Ministry Committee sponsored Vietnamese families and medical mission trips to Guatemala.

The final question of the survey was. “When I think of Grace Lutheran, I think of what?” The responses were mixed. Many expressed concerns for Grace’s future. Comments recognized that the congregation is aging, there are fewer young families attending, there are ongoing staffing and worship style differences, and diminishing numbers. However, many also commented that Grace is a welcoming church, their spiritual home, and has new energy going into family and youth ministry. One member commented, “Grace is a family that refuses to be pigeon-holed as a place that just does one thing. It continues to evolve as needs are felt and opportunities arise. It is wealthy beyond what it even imagines, but it [has] great need of continued renewal of spirit to bring it into the future.”

Thank you for your participation. Your comments created a rich picture of the history of Grace. The Congregational Council will review GLC’s mission and vision statements and will meet with the TT next month. The Transition Team will also present more opportunities in the coming weeks for the whole congregation to engage in this time of transition and preparation for calling a new pastor to join us in ministry. Please pray that our work as a Transition Team will be successful in articulating what Grace is about and what God is calling us to be.

Yours in Christ,
Grace Transition Team: Mary Ann Brennan, Neil Christensen, Jude Geist, Meredith Junge, Dave Lundahl, and Pr. Dorthy

Welcome Kristin Young to Grace

Hi folks! My name is Kristin, and I am thrilled to be joining the Grace community as the Youth and Family Minister. I was born and raised in Montana, attended college in Minnesota, and am looking forward to now living in Oregon. Over the past three years, I have served on year-round staff at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in Lakeside, MT, as well as a substitute teacher and activities facilitator at a science museum in Helena, MT. I enjoy playing music, trail running, and a good dirty chai latte. Can’t wait to meet you all!



May 27, 2021

Dear Grace Lutheran Church Members:

Recent changes in COVID-19 guidance from the CDC and the State of Oregon have given us hope of re-opening our building for worship and meetings. The Re-opening Steering Committee, the Worship and Music Committee, and the Altar Guild met recently to discuss in-person worship and how it can be achieved as safely as is possible. Foremost in our minds is Jesus' command to love one another. Our love is demonstrated in our care for each other especially in circumstances as unusual as those over the past fifteen months.

Our re-opening plan is to have an outdoor service on June 6 followed by a "soft" opening at the church a week or so later. The soft opening will involve a limited number of congregants in preparation for the grand re-opening. This will be a learning and adjustment opportunity for all who lead worship, as we become a hybrid congregation, both in-person and live-streaming. This necessitates a run-through with a smaller number of attendees so that logistical and technical issues can be ironed out before we open the doors.

Re-opening is based on guidelines from the CDC, Oregon Health Authority, Benton County Health, and the Oregon Synod. Protocols developed by the Reopening Steering Committee will be in place as we maneuver through this hopeful time. These will be revised as needed, per the guidelines from the authorities. The protocols are based on the premise that everyone is susceptible to the virus, requiring hand washing, social distancing, and mask wearing. As you know, this is an evolving situation. We hope to loosen requirements as quickly as advisable.

You can do your part. If you haven't gotten a COVID-19 vaccination please consider getting one for your sake and that of your siblings in Christ. We want to prevent having to re-close due to an outbreak within the congregation or an upsurge of infections in the county which would lead to more stringent restrictions.

Our initial services will be a bit different from what you used to experience pre-COVID-19. At first, only the Sounds of Grace musicians will be singing; the congregation will not sing aloud just yet.

Other differences include the following:

- Communion will be in the pews, not at the altar; you will pick up a kit for the number of people in your bubble. Instructions will be included in the kit. Used kits will be left in the pews as you leave.
- The candle stations will not be set up. One person will light candles as you've seen in the live-streamed services.
- There will be more ushers than usual. They will guide you to your seats where you will be socially distanced from other family groups. They will also direct you to the East door to the parking lot when you exit; you won't be leaving through the entry door.
- The offering plates will not be passed. There will be another location for you to place your offering.
- There will be no social hour after church nor nursery services available during the church service. If you have young children, please bring with you whatever you need to care for them.

Again, we anticipate that these requirements will be relaxed over time as the COVID-19 crisis begins to fade. So, instead of dwelling on how different things are, please concentrate on the positive aspects. We will be TOGETHER AGAIN IN OUR OWN SANCTUARY to worship God in gratitude for all the marvelous things God has done us.

With hope and expectation in Christ Jesus,

Reopening Steering Committee
Bob Keith, Chair

Music & Worship Committee
Michael Beachley, Chair

Altar Guild
Linda Samuels, Chair



Scam Alert! BEWARE!

Not long ago I received a text message from a colleague. It was easy to tell it was a scam. My colleague has a recognizable way of texting, so I knew it wasn't from her. The surprise was that it was a text message asking for a favor. Usually that is in email form. Somehow her iPhone got hacked and her contacts were sent the text.

As you know there are increasing scam calls and emails. **Please be careful.** Some scam emails have looked like they come from me, Pr Dorthy. Please know that I do not ask for gift cards or money sent to a secret bank account. Nor will any staff at Grace. Neither does the Social Security Administration or other government agency send texts or emails.

If you get something that seems like a scam, call someone to check it out, either the identified person via the number you have or someone you trust. Do not connect to any links in a text message or email. Do not call the phone number they may give. Please beware!

The AARP Fraud Watch Network helpline is 877-908-3360. Call them if you suspect a scam sent to you before answering. You do not need to be an AARP member to call.

AARP Bulletin had an interesting article in April 2021 about this very thing: <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2021/international-tech-support-scam-exposed.html>

May Council Minutes

March Council Minutes, Executive Committee meeting, and other interesting items can be found in a binder on the church office counter. Should you want them emailed to you, please just notify us at office@grace97330.org. You are also welcome to attend council meetings, should you want to know what is going on or have something you would like to talk about.

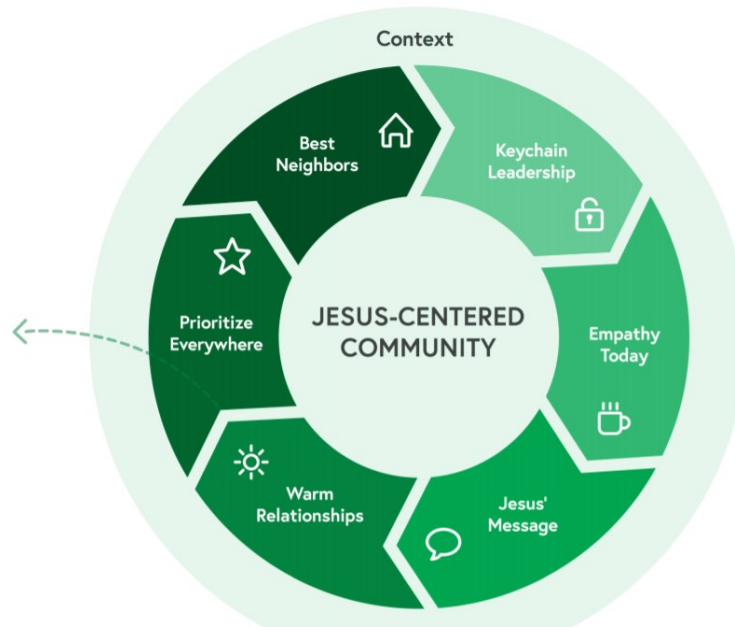
May Meeting Minutes can be found online at: <https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Council-meeting-minutes-05-10-21.pdf>

*Church Council Reports are
always available in the
church office for you to read.*



President:
Bob Keith
Vice President:
Kendra Wollert
Secretary:
Nancy Hemming
Treasurer:
Hal Brauner
Financial Secretary:
Mary Stephens
Council Members:
Jeff Beck
Mike Franklin
Isaac Hadlock
Rebekah Hadlock
Meredith Junge
Dave Lundahl
Mary Ann Matzke
Pr. Dorthy Nielsen
Robyn Vega
Sandie Williams

Growing Young Core Commitments



Unlock keychain leadership:
Instead of centralizing authority,
empower others—especially young people.

Empathize with today's young people:
Instead of judging or criticizing,
step into the shoes of this generation.

Take Jesus' message seriously:
Instead of asserting formulaic gospel claims,
welcome young people into a Jesus-centered way of life.

Fuel a warm community:
Instead of focusing on cool worship or programs,
aim for warm peer and intergenerational friendships.

Prioritize young people (and families) everywhere:
Instead of giving lip service to how much young people matter,
look for creative ways to tangibly support,
resource, and involve them in all facets of your congregation.

Be the best neighbors:
Instead of condemning the world outside your walls,
enable young people to neighbor well locally and globally.

Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin Baker Books, 2016



Birthday Blessings!

Please let the office know if there is a birthdate listed incorrectly, or if we have omitted someone in error.

Glenn Chaffin	06/01	Iona Trapp	06/14
Sally Winkler	06/04	Wilson Schroeder	06/16
Mary Benson-Willett	06/05	Jeff Lesmeister	06/19
Mikaila Saathoff	06/05	Donna King	06/22
Hannah Shaff	06/07	Pr. Dorthy Nielsen	06/22
Kyle Smith	06/07	Bali	06/24
Cynara Stadsvold	06/07	Denise Cardinali	06/25
Mary Ann Matzke	06/08	Jan Byers	06/26
Tony Smith	06/12	Bekki Levien	06/29
Frank Davis	06/14	Larry Rosenkoetter	06/29
Cecile Palmgren	06/14	Peter Gelser	06/30

June meeting of the Grace Globaliers

Grace Globaliers will be discussing “The Day the World Came To Town” by Jim Defede on Tuesday, June 1 at 7 pm over Zoom. Sharon Rosenkoetter will lead the discussion.

This book recounts the inspiring story of the residents of Gander, Canada, whose acts of kindness have touched the lives of thousands of people and been an example of humanity and goodwill.

To get the Zoom link contact Maryann.matzke@gmail.com.

This is our last meeting for the academic year. Please watch for notices of our fall meetings.



DISASTER PREPAEDNESS



Are
You
Ready?

Adult Bible Study – June, July and August 2021

We will continue to email to those that wish until we are able to meet together again. Contact Frank or Sue at fssndavis@msn.com if you wish to get the Bible Study lessons.

Confident Hope

The apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4). We can begin this quarter of Bible study heartened and inspired by these words- for we most surely will be strengthened in hope by the instruction and encouragement of the scriptures we will be examining. The first five sessions draw from gospel texts, where Jesus’ teachings, healings, and miracles reveal the power of God and the desire of God to draw life from our death-dealing circumstances and inclinations.

In passages from the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus challenges us to be more than people of “little faith.” We learn what attitudes and practices will open the way to deeper faith, but Jesus also leads us to discover what dispositions diminish and weaken faith. He makes clear that a life of faith will quite likely be thrown in tumult by the creative and generative life force that is God. There can be no mature faith or hope without risking this.

A centurion, a woman with a bleeding disorder, and a Samaritan with a skin disease all show what confident hope looks like – an awareness of powerlessness, reverence before God’s power, a disposition of gratitude, and a fearlessness in approaching Jesus because they believe it is his loving desire to restore wholeness and their hope. The remaining sessions, from the Epistles, give us a picture of the struggles of the early church and how the heritage of faith was informed by the life and teaching of Jesus. The words of the apostles in these situations encouraged confidence and hope. In sessions 6-9, we hear Paul help the Roman Christians understand the hope of salvation through faith. Teaching that God’s righteousness is revealed in those who live by faith, Paul illustrated faith through the example of Abraham and teaches that salvation is for all.

The final four sessions clarify faith as essential for the hope of eternal life. Hebrews shows how faith in Christ gives hope that helps people persevere in all circumstances. First John promises that faith conquers the world. Second Corinthians teaches about hope in God’s gift of eternal life.

Our Writer

Pam Shellberg, sessions 1-5, is a biblical scholar, teacher, and writer. She currently serves as director of lifelong faith formation at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin.

Chip Borgstadt, sessions 6-13, is a husband, dad, pastor, and volunteer. He has been blessed to write curricula for Augsburg Fortress for the past twenty-five years.

Camp Lutherwood News



Camp COVID-19 Guidelines Now Available!

A recording of the Town Hall with camp directors and Lutherwood's Mental Health Specialist & Health Coordinator can be found at: <https://youtu.be/QKxR6lQKBJI> A printed version of these guideline will be available on our website.

Camp Lutherwood Oregon Is Now Hiring!

We are now accepting applications for all Summer Staff positions. Information and job descriptions are available online at lutherwoodoregon.org/employment. Summer Staff members must be at least 18 years of age by June 1, 2021 and willing to serve in a variety of roles this summer. For questions email jobs@lutherwoodoregon.org or call the camp office at 541-998-6444

One Last Work Day- June 5th

One last chance to visit camp this Spring and help us prepare for summer. Join us on June 5 from 10AM to 2PM. Reservations are required, space is limited. Visit our website at <https://www.lutherwoodoregon.org/work-days-2/> to request your space!

2021 Summer Registration is OPEN!

Registration is open for Family Camp, Women's Retreat and Youth Programs now! Space is limited for all programs and spots are filling up fast. The most up to date information about program dates and costs can be found at <https://www.lutherwoodoregon.org/camp/>

COVID-19 & Camp Lutherwood Oregon

At this time camp is open to guests by private appointment only. Please contact the office to make arrangements to ensure that we are able to accommodate all safety requirements at 541-998-6444 or office@lutherwoodoregon.org for more information and to make your request.

Connecting via Phone



Thanks to those members of Grace who have taken on a ministry of checking in on some of the more isolated members of our community during this time of "sheltering at home." Given this, there may still be a need for conversation that we have not anticipated. If you're someone who would like to be assigned a "phone friend," please call the church office, 541-757-1600, and leave a message to let us know. We will make sure someone gets in touch with you.



If you go to the hospital . . .

It used to be that our pastors and the members If you know that someone from Grace has entered the hospital and you have their permission to share this information, please call the Church Office so that our pastor and Visitation Team can call on them. The hospital has recently allowed visiting by lay Hospital Visitors. Any messages left on the church number (541-757-1600) will be picked up and forwarded. Thanks for the help!

Traveling through the Season after Pentecost

June 6, 2021 Second Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

Readings and Psalm

[Genesis 3:8-15](#)

God confronts Adam and Eve in the garden

[Psalm 130](#)

Wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love. (Ps. 130:7)

[2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1](#)

Renewed in the inner nature

[Mark 3:20-35](#)

Doing the work of God as brothers and sisters of Christ

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



June 13, 2021 Third Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

Readings and Psalm

[Ezekiel 17:22-24](#)

The sign of the cedar, planted on the mountain of Israel

[Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15](#)

The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon. (Ps. 92:12)

[2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17](#)

In Christ, a new creation

[Mark 4:26-34](#)

The parable of the mustard seed

Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



Find the Bible online at bible.oremus.org

June 20, 2021
Forth Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

Readings and Psalm

[Job 38:1-11](#)

The creator of earth and sea

[Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32](#)

You stilled the storm and silenced the waves of the sea. (Ps. 107:29)

[2 Corinthians 6:1-13](#)

Paul's defense of his ministry

[Mark 4:35-41](#)

Christ calming the sea

Prayer of the Day

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



June 27, 2021
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

Readings and Psalm

[Lamentations 3:22-33](#)

Great is the Lord's faithfulness

[Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24](#) (alternate)

God created humankind for immortality

[Psalm 30](#)

I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up. (Ps. 30:1)

[2 Corinthians 8:7-15](#)

Excel in generosity, following the Lord Jesus

[Mark 5:21-43](#)

Christ healing a woman and Jairus's daughter

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

