



Order of worship

5th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2020

Call to worship *(Psalm 34:1-3)*

I will bless the Lord at all times; the praise of
God shall ever be in my mouth.

I will glory in the Lord; let the humble hear
and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt the name of God together.

Call to confession

Lord, we do not understand our own actions. We do the very things we
hate and yet with you there is forgiveness, with you there is mercy. Hear
us as we humbly confess the ways we have gone astray — like lost sheep,
seek us out and bring us home.

Prayer of confession

Merciful God, you reveal your will to us through the Word and by the
Spirit, but we refuse to listen and follow. We do the very things we hate
and then feel trapped in guilt and shame. We long to know the abundant
life Jesus came to give, but neglect to take up his yoke and learn from him.
Forgive us for not doing that which we know to do. Forgive us for not being
who you call and create us to be. Accept our confession and free us yet
again from the burdens we can no longer bear. *(Silent prayer.)* Amen.

Assurance of pardon *(Matthew 11:28-30)*

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy
burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from
me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your
souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Friends, believe the good news, through Jesus Christ you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.



Prayer for illumination

Loving God, the chaos of the world encircles and frightens us. We worry about tomorrow, even though you tell us not to be anxious. Send your Spirit to quiet our distractions and draw us to you so that we might know the peace of your close presence. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(The Apostles' Creed)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Call for the offering

We own nothing. Everything belongs to the Lord. And yet God gifts us with resources we are to steward and share. As we present to God this morning's offerings, we remember with thanksgiving the Lord's overflowing goodness and mercy and give accordingly.



Prayer of dedication

Lord, as the wildflowers bloom on the side of the highway and the birds sing in the summer dawn, we rejoice in the beauty of creation that surrounds us no matter the upheaval around and within us. Take these offerings of ours, given in faith, bless and use them to reveal your glory, your beauty, your goodness and your grace to those deepest in need of knowing they are beloved and cherished by no less than you, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Holy God, we enter this time of prayer mindful of our inability to be content. We are restless and dissatisfied, even when we have all we need and then some. Instead of giving thanks for that which we have, we lament that which we feel we lack. We burden ourselves with things that do not offer that which they promise. We burden others with expectations they cannot possibly meet. We burden creation with our relentless abuse of the earth and its creatures. As we pause to acknowledge our total dependence on you, reveal to us the abundance you pour out upon your people.

We rejoice in the myriad of colors that show your glory around every corner — the green leaves on the trees, the oranges and purples and pinks of blooming flowers, the flash of the red cardinal and the shiny black of the crow. Help us to stop and notice the beauty you so lavishly create and share.

We celebrate the goodness you embed in humanity. We look for the helpers, the healers, the teachers, mentors, leaders and encouragers who spend their lives looking to the interest of others, seeking to serve rather than be served.

We give thanks for those closest to us, the people who love us at our worst, cheer us when we are at our lowest, care for us when we are at our weakest and want for us what is best. They show us what it means to be called beloved and significant.

We praise you for the gift of this day, whatever it entails, knowing that you are present with us, that Christ prays for us, that the Spirit intercedes for us. We rest in these promises — so that emboldened by your power we can share these truths with those yet to know of their priceless worth in your eyes.

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We lament the suffering so pervasive in our world. We cry out to you with sighs too deep for words for those who go to bed hungry, the people fearing for their lives, the vulnerable too long exploited and your children denied justice. We lift up to you the sick and the broken-hearted, the lonely and the impoverished. As we are yoked to Christ, yoke us to those who need their burdens lightened and their souls refreshed.

We make our prayer in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray... *Our Father*..

Charge and benediction (*Book of Common Worship*)

Go out into the world in peace.

Have courage!

Hold fast to what is good.

Return no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering.

Honor all people.

Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution.

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