



Order of worship

17th Sunday After Pentecost

September 27, 2020

Call to worship (*Psalm 25:1-5*)

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

Call to confession (*Psalm 25:6-7*)

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Confident in God's mercy, let us confess our sin to God.



Prayer of confession *(based on Philippians 2)*

Gracious God, you instruct us to look to the interest of others, to be of the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. We are to do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but instead serve you with humility and patience. We know your will, we even say we will do it, and yet too often we fail to follow your commandments. We act out of self-interest. We regard others as less than ourselves. We neglect your teachings to care for the least of these. We refuse to follow you, go our own way and then wonder why we are so lost. Remind us of your mercy, Lord, of your steadfast love and your promise to forgive those who humbly repent and turn to you. Hear our prayer, work within us and enable us to do your will. Amen.

Assurance of pardon *(Psalm 25:8-9)*

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore God instructs sinners in the way.

The Lord leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble the way.

Friends, believe the good news,
through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Prayer for illumination

Lord, what does it profit us to gain the whole world and lose our souls? In the din of demands and distractions, send your Spirit to help us discern your Word and your will. Grant us ears to hear and faith to obey your teachings that offer life and life abundant. In Christ's name we pray, 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 Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on 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 Ghost,
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

With what shall we come before the Lord? What do we have to give to our Lord who emptied himself, humbled himself to the point of death, death on a cross, for the sake of the world? While we can never repay God for all God has done for us, we are invited, privileged even, to offer in gratitude gifts that represent our joy, loyalty and love. Let us worship as we give.

Prayer of dedication

As a sign of our desire to be faithful, to hear and heed your teachings, we offer you these gifts, Lord of all. We recognize that all we have comes from you and that you hold nothing back from us. In joyful thanksgiving we give you these earthly resources, trusting that you will use them for your divine purposes. Bless this offering. May it to bear witness to our love for you and your love for the world. Amen.



Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God, we are tempted to give into constant quarreling with you, with one another, with leaders and friends, fellow believers and random strangers. Our world is awash in animosity and fear, anxiety and distrust. Even though we know we are to be in the world but not of it, we find it hard not to mirror the discord and anger all around us. We humbly come before you this Lord's day and ask you to intervene, to work within us so that we have the ability to turn away from those actions and attitudes that prevent us from fulfilling your purpose through us and turn toward the One who shapes us for your service.

As the world reels with upheaval, use us to bear witness to your peace. As the headlines reverberate with bad news, use us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. As our communities wrestle with wicked problems, use us to exercise holy imagination that helps the new thing you are doing emerge. As so many grow weary and worried, use us to bring relief and hope.

Merciful God, our prayer lists are long. We cannot possibly name all of the people, places and circumstances in need of your compassion and transformation. We trust that you know our hearts and hear our pleas even when they are left unspoken. Pour out your care on those devastated by fires and floods. Wrap in love your children who cry to you in lament for all they have lost and cannot imagine living without. Grant your unwavering strength to your prophets speaking the truth in love to many as yet unable to hear it. Give your peace that passes understanding to those overwhelmed with anxiety and afraid of what tomorrow might bring.

Confident that you know the needs and are already present and at work in every corner of creation, we humbly turn over to you those things we can no longer carry. Astonished that you enlist us to do your will on earth, we ask you to show us what we ought to take on in order to be faithful to your call. We make our prayer in gratitude for your grace and in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray, *Our Father...*



Charge and benediction (*Colossians 3:12-14*)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always.

© *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2020.

Liturgy written by Jill Duffield
and provided for free distribution.

For more resources,
visit pres-outlook.org.

istock.com/simonidjordjevic