



Order of worship

18th Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

October 4, 2020

Call to worship (*Psalm 19:7-10*)

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;
The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Call to confession

The Lord's law is indeed perfect, God's decrees sure and precepts right. Yet, in our sin and finitude we fall short and fail to follow God's commandments. Nonetheless, the Lord is gracious, merciful and abounding in steadfast love. Confident that God's promises are sure, God's character unchanging, we dare to confess our sin in order that we might be forgiven from the past we cannot change and freed for God's good future. Let us pray.



Prayer of confession

Lord, as we prepare to break the bread and drink from the cup, we cannot help but hesitate to partake of your body and blood. We remember your admonishment to go and be reconciled to our siblings before coming to your table. We recognize how we have fanned the flames of division rather than repaired the breach between us. We know we do not make evident our unity in you, our oneness made possible through your sacrifice. Too many of your children do not have a place at the table, do not have enough to eat, are relegated to beg for crumbs when you command us to offer radical and abundant hospitality. In your relentless mercy, forgive us, free us from fear and make us conduits for your reconciling love. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

God refuses to give up on us. God restores us. God sent the only Son to save us.

There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Prayer for illumination

Your law, O Lord, is perfect. Your commandments clear, your decrees sure. You do not leave us in the dark to guess your will, but instead send the light no darkness can overcome to reveal your way and illumine our understanding. Send your Spirit so that we will have the ears to hear what you are saying to your church. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon



Affirmation of faith *(The Nicene Creed)*

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper



Call for the offering

Knowing Jesus Christ surpasses all else. Knowing and being known by Jesus Christ reorders our priorities and shapes all our actions. Recognizing this truth, we give our morning's offering with joy and in thanksgiving for God's outpouring of goodness and mercy to us.

Prayer of dedication

Gracious God, you create and call us, feed and sustain us, forgive and redeem us. We can never return to you that which you deserve. We pray to honor and glorify you with these gifts and with our entire lives. We present this offering as a tangible way of showing our love for and loyalty to you. As tenants in your vineyard we rejoice in being called to work with you in sharing your abundant harvest with the entire world you so love. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

O Lord our God, so much seems to be wrong in your vineyard. You gift us with space and work, fellow tenants and an abundant harvest, but we too often refuse to recognize the joy of your call and the beauty of your creation. We want more or other, better or bigger, that which belongs to you or our neighbors. We injure those you send to correct and restore us. We refuse to heed your life-giving law and even attempt to silence the Word made flesh. Help us, holy One, to treasure the gifts you give us, tend the resources you entrust to us and work to heal the hurt we so readily inflict.

O Lord our God, hear our cries of lament for the injustice so rampant in your world. You came to release the captives and set the oppressed free. You weep when your prophets are killed and your call to repent unheard. Grant us the courage to be repairers of the breach, those who restore our city streets. Bring justice. Bring peace. Make us embodiments of your perfect love that casts out fear.

O Lord our God, silence in us any voice but yours. As the chorus of divisive rhetoric rings in our ears and hate-filled speech gets amplified, send your Spirit to give your people the right words at the right time to proclaim good news for all people. Do not let us remain silent when we are called to give voice to your will. Do not let us open our mouths when our words do not reflect the Word of grace and truth.

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O Lord our God, open our eyes to see you present, at work, creating a future where all your children are valued, respected, fed and free to fulfill with joy your purposes for them. Give us a holy imagination that enables us to envision your vision and dream your dreams with such tenacity that we cannot help but enact your will.

O Lord our God, break our hearts in ways that move us to compassion, enliven our empathy and help us emulate the love of Christ. May those who feel dismissed know of your delight in them. May those who feel lonely know of your presence with them. May those who feel despair know your resurrection hope. May those who feel shattered by this time and current events know your healing power. May we, your body, the church, be made through the work of the Spirit the answer to the prayers of your people.

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

Go forth into the world in peace.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast that which is good.
Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.
Help the afflicted.
Show love to everyone.
Love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield
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