



Order of worship

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2020

Call to worship (*Psalm 106:1-5*)

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
for the Lord's steadfast love endures forever.

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord,
or declare all God's praise?

Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;
help me when you deliver them;

that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.

Call to confession

We have sinned and fallen short of what God commands and requires of us. We have no excuses, but we have confidence in the Lord's promises. Therefore, we are bold to confess our sin to God and with one another.

Prayer of confession

Lord, you see how stubborn we are, how quickly we turn from you toward idols of our own making, how impatient we are when we do not get what we think we deserve. We forget your providential care for us, the countless ways you provide, your gracious response to our cries for help. We do not think on things like justice and goodness. We are not known for our gentleness. We give in to the loud voices that tell us to tend to our own needs only and neglect the very ones you command us to feed. We cannot justify our behavior, we can only confess it, repent and ask again for your mercy. Forgive us, Lord, so that we can bear witness to your character of loving kindness. In Christ's name we pray, amen.



Assurance of pardon

The Lord's wrath relents, and God instead pours out mercy and grace. Our God refuses to give up on us and instead forgives and frees us. Friends, believe the exceedingly good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Prayer for illumination

Gracious God, the news this week disturbs and scares us. The state of the world, the state of our own hearts, frightens and stuns us. We need your transformative word to call us back to you, to remind us of who and whose we are, to shape us for your service in ways that shine Christ's light in our darkness. Send your Spirit so that we will hear and respond rightly to your word to your people. 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

God's love for us never ends. God's mercies are new every morning. When we consider God's goodness and mercy, we are humbled and awed. In gratitude and joy we give to God our morning's offering. Let us worship as we give.

Prayer of dedication

Almighty God, you invite us to the banquet, welcome us to your table, send your prophets with your instructions and your Son to save us from our sin. The depth and breadth of your compassion cannot ever be earned or repaid, hence we call it grace. Accept, we pray, these gifts, given in thanksgiving and in the hope that you will bless and use them to call others to the heavenly banquet. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Lord, we rejoice in you always. Even in times of trial and despite seasons of doubt and pain, we rejoice. We come to you pleading on behalf of the world you so love, asking for signs of your grace, interventions of your mercy, transformation that reflects your goodness. When we grow weary and bereft, send your Spirit to encourage and uphold us. When we are tempted to give in to violence or force, remind us that we, your people, are to be known for our gentleness. Be near to us that we might know your peace.

Grant us the strength of faith not to worry, but to instead think on things that are honorable. Help us to live with integrity, showing respect to your creation and love to our neighbors. May our actions reflect your character, the body of Christ an extension of Jesus' earthly ministry until he comes again.

Give us the courage to not only think about justice, but enact and embody it. Aid us in our work for equity and our honest accounting of past wrongs and present oppression. Knowing that we are united in Christ and called to a ministry of reconciliation, empower us to do the hard, tangible work of repairing the breach and restoring the streets.

continued on the next page



Reveal to us that which is pure, those things that speak of your holiness and point to your will. Do not let us be overtaken by cynicism or despair. Give us eyes to see you present and at work, ears to hear your voice however and through whomever you choose to speak, hearts inscribed with your word and moved to do your work.

Teach us to recognize that which is pleasing in your sight so that we can name it, emulate it, expand it. In the suffering so pervasive and varied in our world, call forth hope and embolden us to be bearers of it. Surround those bent over in grief and pain with disciples who refuse to turn away, people committed to sitting in the darkness until the dawn comes.

Open our mouths to proclaim your praise. As our anxieties grow and our divisions increase, send the Holy Spirit to remind us of all Jesus taught us, give us the right words to speak at the right time, turn our thoughts to you so that we will think and act on your loving kindness, your free flowing justice, your pursuit of goodness and mercy. We pray in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray, Our Father...

Benediction (*Romans 15:5-6*)

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield
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