



Order of worship
2nd Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2021

Call to worship *(based on Psalm 22)*

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to God;

God's face is not hidden from us when we cry to God.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and God rules over the nations.

Call to confession

If we would only confess our sin, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from the wrongs we have caused. Let us confess our sin together, trusting God's promised mercy.

Prayer of confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in our thoughts, our words and our actions. There is a brokenness in us that reflects the brokenness of our world — and it is deep and broad. Yet in your mercy and healing grace, you can restore us and empower us to walk in the way of Christ. In your mercy and healing grace, you can reform our paths toward love and justice for our neighbors and for the earth. In your mercy and healing grace, you can make your peace – your shalom – a reality in our communities and lives. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

God's mercy and healing grace are sure for each and for all. Friends, hear the good of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and restored. We are set on right paths of love, justice and peace.



Prayer for illumination

O God, send your Spirit to us to open our hearts that we might discern your Word amid the words of Scripture we read today, so that in hearing your Word we may be formed in the way of Christ for one another and our world. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing children,
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified,

**suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

**vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

With believers in every time and place,

**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Call for the offering

God is a fountain of good gifts that are bestowed upon all of us. Let us respond to these gifts by returning a portion of our resources as a sign that all of who we are is a gift from God. Amen.



Prayer of dedication

O God, receive these gifts as a sign that our lives are committed to your work in this world. May these gifts enable flourishing for all your children and the whole creation.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

O God, our creator and redeemer, we pray that the Spirit of Jesus would be with us as we continue our journey through Lent. Jesus called his disciples to pick up their cross and follow him. Help us to discern what that means for us as the church in this time and place. Give us the courage to name suffering and evil and to stand in resistance to it. Give us endurance when we face persecution for resisting abuses in our lives and communities. Empower us to stand with those who suffer on account of homelessness, lack of food or resources, or other injustices. Inspire us to see Christ in the least of these in our midst.

O God, we pray for those who are isolated and lonely during this pandemic. May we find ways to be a comfort for them. We pray for children and parents who are navigating school and work under such stressful circumstances. We pray for those who have lost loved ones because of the virus and are grieving the loss. We pray for your church in this time of crisis and that we would find new ways to live your mission. We also pray for those hurt by the snow and ice storms that have ravaged large sections of our county — adding to the already stressful realities of life in our current crisis.

And, O God, we continue to pray for the global community as it grapples with the pandemic. We pray that you would give us the fortitude to take responsibility for measures that will protect us all. We pray especially for the those hit hardest by the strains of this menace, and pray for those in leadership in our communities, states and nation as they negotiate ways in which to aid those most afflicted. We pray for a speedy process of vaccination in this country and in countries around the globe. And we pray for fairness in access to the vaccine for countries that heretofore have not received it. May this injustice be rectified.

We prayer all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, *Our Father...*



Charge and benediction

Go out into God's world in the power of the Spirit,
Resist evil and stand for the good.
Be a blessing to your neighbor,
And lift up the brokenhearted,
Stand with the oppressed
Let all that you do be out of love. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Roger Gench
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