



## *Order of worship*

2nd Sunday of Easter

**April 11, 2021**

---

### **Call to worship** *(Psalm 136)*

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

**Who alone does great wonders,  
for God's steadfast love endures forever**

Who spread out the earth on the waters,  
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

**Who made the great lights,  
for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

It is God who remembered us in our low estate,  
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

**And rescued us from all that threatens us,  
for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

O give thanks to the God of heaven,  
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

### **Call to confession**

God's amazing grace goes before us, after us, through us, often unbeknownst to us, and more often in spite of us. Because of this amazing grace we have confidence to come before God and acknowledge our sin. Let us confess our sin before God and one another.



### **Prayer of confession**

God of Easter, in the risen Christ you broke the power of sin and evil. And yet we still live in the tombs of forgetfulness, anxiety and fear. We have failed to love You as we should. We have neglected to love our neighbor. Indeed, we have even failed to love ourselves. Release us from the tombs that terrify us, so that we can see your image in one another and in your good creation. Indeed, free us from the graves of self-hatred, so that we can see ourselves as your children. Amen.

### **Assurance of pardon**

The mercy of the Lord is sure. In Christ we are forgiven and set free from the chains that bind us so that we can be an Easter people. Thanks be to God!

### **Prayer of illumination**

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit so that we can hear your Word in the words of Scripture. Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. Amen.

### **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**

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

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"



### **Call for the offering**

God is the fountain of many good gifts. We are blessed by the goodness all around us. Let us now bring our gifts in joyful response to the many gifts that we have been given.

### **Prayer of dedication**

O God, we offer these gifts on the promise that they will serve you in our community and world. May they help bring peace, love and justice for the earth and all who dwell in it.

### **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

God of the Easter season, you come into our midst with resurrection power to free us from the realities that enslave us; that keep us from the fullness of life you desire for all of your children and for the earth itself. Help us to be open to your presence in our lives even if it means facing difficult circumstances that bind us and keep us from living fully. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church amid the conflicted times in which we live, that we would serve you faithfully, and be the place where wounds are touched, attended to, released, liberated and redeemed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the people in every land, that we may seek the common good, and work for justice and peace for all the people and not just the few. For all those who hunger and thirst, that they may be filled with good things. For those whose rights have been abused or rejected, may we stand in solidarity with them and be a witness to justice. And we pray for those whose lives have been torn and traumatized by violence — may we be agents of your love to each of these your children. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, we pray for elected officials around our globe. Help them resist greed, prideful ambition and partisan gain in order that they may serve the welfare of all — especially refugees and immigrants in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*continued on the next page*



God of salvation and healing, we come to you as a people who continue to struggle with overwhelming challenges of the pandemic. We pray for special measures of strength and endurance to weary healthcare workers and to all who are now facilitating vaccination. May your comfort be with all who are sick and all who have lost loved ones. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, *Our Father...*

**Charge and benediction** (*Book of Common Worship*)

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold onto what is good; return no one evil for evil; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

© *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2021.

Liturgy written by Roger Gench  
and provided for free distribution.

For more resources,  
visit [pres-outlook.org](https://pres-outlook.org).