



Order of worship

7th Sunday of Easter

May 16, 2021

Call to worship (1 John 5:9-13)

If we receive human testimony,
the testimony of God is greater.

**Those who believe in the Son of God
have the testimony in their hearts.**

This is the testimony:

God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Whoever has the Son has life.

We gather knowing that you have eternal life.

Let us worship the Lord of life together.

Call to confession (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace in this and every time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Prayer of confession

We pray, O Lord, not due to our own wisdom, insight and strength, but through you. You intercede for us because we do not know how to pray as we ought. You even hear and know our sighs, which are too deep for words. Forgive us, O Lord, when our prayers are filled with empty phrases and meaningless platitudes. Forgive us, O Lord, when our prayers fail to express our love for you and our neighbors in need. Forgive us, O Lord, when our prayers do not lead to engagement with justice and peace. Fill us with your word and grant us a new beginning in you. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, we pray. Amen.



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Declaration of forgiveness *(Romans 8:34)*

Hear the good news. Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us and Christ prays for us. My friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Prayer for illumination

Open our hearts and our minds, O Lord, that above all the many voices that swirl around us we might clearly hear your word to us today; and in the hearing of your word, may our lives might be transformed by this encounter with you. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith

(1 Corinthians 15:1-6; Mark 16:1-9; Matthew 16:16; Revelation 22:13; John 20:28)

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Call for the offering

As God's blessings shower upon us, we respond to God's amazing grace with our hands, our feet, our hearts, our prayers and our tithes and offerings. Let us bring our gifts in gratitude and praise.



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Prayer of dedication (*John 17:6*)

Christ has made the name of the Lord known to us, so we give thanks. In your name, O Lord, use these gifts, and the time, talents and very lives they represent, for your glory as your kingdom breaks forth in this world. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer (*Psalms 1; John 17*)

As Christ prays on behalf of his disciples, let us pray on behalf of all those Christ loves. God of grace, the world is full of those who delight in your teachings and those who scoff at your ways. We pray that we might meditate on you day and night, that we might be an influence for good in the world.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

God of wisdom, the world is full of those whose faith seeks understanding and those who discard the truth. We pray that we might receive your Word and know that you are the truth that transforms our lives.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

God of justice, the world is full of those who seek to do what is right and those who seek only their own self-interest. We pray for those who protect the innocent and seek to overcome systems that oppress. May we carry your light until all might see your way.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

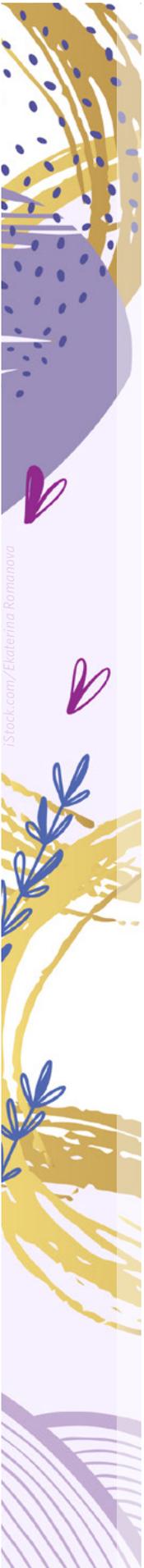
God of healing, the world is full of those who are sick, injured, alone and in need of care; and those who dedicate their lives to caregiving and healing. We pray that your holiness and wholeness will draw near to all those who are in need, that they might be filled with your presence.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

God of unity, the world is filled with those who claim that they belong to you and those who actively work against your plans and purposes for a new creation. We pray for reconciliation, courage and faith for your church; that your followers will be sanctified in the truth; and that we might proclaim the good news of redemption in you with great joy to a world in desperate need of good news.

May we be like trees planted by streams of water.

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As Christ prays on behalf of his disciples, we lift up to you the prayers of our hearts for those we know and love, trusting them to your protection and care. (*Silent prayer.*)

Hear our prayers and give us confidence and courage that we might join our voices together, praying with the words that Christ himself taught his disciples, *Our Father ...*

Charge and benediction

As our service of worship concludes,
may our lives of worship and service begin anew.
As Christ prays for you, pray for one another.

As Christ forgives you, forgive one another.

As Christ loves you, love one another.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us now and forever more. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Matt Rich, pastor
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