



*Order of worship*

16th Sunday after Pentecost

**September 12, 2021**

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**Call to worship** (*Psalm 116*)

I love the Lord, because God has heard my voice and my supplications.

**Because God heard me, I will call on God as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

**Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"**

**Call to confession**

God delivers us from paths of death and keeps our feet from stumbling. Let us confess all that keeps us from walking in the way of the Lord.

**Prayer of confession**

Holy God, we make so many mistakes. We speak, and words of poison come from our mouths. We sow division, break others down and seek to dominate rather than dialogue. Forgive us, God. Tame our tongues of fire. Guide us in our speech, so our words can bless and build up. Amen.

**Assurance of pardon** (*James 5: 15-16*)

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness. Amen.

**Prayer for illumination**

Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. May we approach your Word today, Holy God, with the reverence and respect it deserves. Let us be intentional in our listening and focused in our minds as we hear your Word read and proclaimed today. Amen.



## **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**

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

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

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!"

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.

#### **Call for the offering** (*Proverbs 11:24, 25*)

A generous person will be enriched. Those who give freely will grow  
all the richer. Let us present our tithes and offering to our God.

#### **Prayer of dedication**

Holy God, take these gifts and bless them for good use to your  
glory. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the  
poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to  
survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a  
hurting world. Amen.



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

Blessed, praised, honored, exalted, respected, adored and glorified be the name of our Holy God. Words alone cannot adequately express our praise and thanksgiving, Holy One. May the words we pray honestly reflect the desire and devotion of our hearts and guide us to a strong and right relationship with you. In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayers.

We pray for health and healing in the midst of our continuing crisis. Strengthen medical professionals who have spent all of their reserves of endurance. Encourage them when death prevails despite their heroic efforts. Grant them courage and confidence in the face of never-ending trials. Show us all signs of your healing grace.

As our nation marks 20 years since the attacks of September 11, 2001, we pray for a collective moment of pause. Help us stop what we are doing, Holy God. Help us set aside the stress and strain of the everyday to honor the lives that were lost, the families devastated, the first responders who ran toward danger to help and save. May the memory of this terrible and tragic day make us ever more motivated to work for peace across our world. Help us to build cultural, global and interfaith bridges, pathways and partnerships of mutual care and understanding. Merciful God, as we remember the pain of this tragic day, fill us with your peace that passes all understanding, fill us with the hope that your kingdom will come and your will be done.

Compassionate God, bind up the wounds of the suffering among us. Provide help and hope for families facing eviction. Provide safety and security for refugees and asylum seekers. Provide justice for peoples and nations long oppressed. Provide liberation for the dehumanized as well as for those who cooperate with dehumanizing practices. Free us all, Holy God, by faith.

God of life, the burdens we carry are heavy and the road forward feels dreary and endless. Turn our eyes to where your skies are full of promise, tune our hearts to your brave love, fill our souls with moral courage so we can find our purpose and our path in you. United as a family of faith and as the Body of Christ, we lift these prayers up to you, God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Finally, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying, *Our Father...*



### **Charge and benediction**

May the words of our mouths be a blessing to others and be acceptable to God, our Rock and our Redeemer.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us now and always. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott,  
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