



Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2022

Call to worship (Psalm 118:22-23)

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Call to confession

No one is lost to God. All are welcome to witness and receive God's saving grace. Let us confess our sins before our Savior.

Prayer of confession

You send us, God of the Great Commission, but we hedge and hesitate. Forgive our fear and our excuses. We are witnesses of your grace and glory but allow others to silence our praise. We imprison ourselves with doubt and shame and fail to shine your light for all to see. Forgive our fears. Free our testimony. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Christ has transformed us. Christ has renewed us. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Savior God, your Word is a lamp to our feet on this discipleship road. Walk with us. Guide us with your wisdom and grace. Open us to discerning your will and your way. Amen.

Scripture readings



Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from the Belhar Confession)

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

Call for the offering

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and Christ's church.

Prayer of dedication

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.



Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer:

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! We join our voices with the chorus of creation, praising our God of resurrection glory! The trajectory of death has been disrupted. God's promise of a world made new, redeemed by Christ's passion, is worthy of trumpets, tambourines, and dance! We celebrate you, Savior God. We adore you. We approach you in prayer full of gratitude and praise.

Even though the lilies that adorn our sanctuaries are still fresh and our lives know happiness and joy, we continue to grieve the state of our world, the illness that lays so many low, the violence of war and the troubled spirits of those oppressed. Hear our prayers for peace, Redeeming God. Heal the rifts that break us apart. Humble the tyrants hell-bent on war. Empower the diplomats with non-violent strategies. Protect the people of Ukraine.

Encourage us, God of grace, in our witness. May we not fear or avoid your call to shine and sing. Give us the courage to face our painful truths so we can participate in necessary and faithful change. Grant us the wisdom to learn from our past so we can help build towards your glorious future. Guide us in all we say and do, Inspiring God, so we can bear witness to the hope you offer and the path Christ has paved.

As the Body of Christ, hear us now as we pray as Christ taught us, "Our Father..."

Charge and benediction

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

We are an Easter people! Live into the hope of Christ's resurrection!

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

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution.

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