



# Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

**May 8, 2022**

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## **Call to worship** (*Isaiah 53:5-6*)

He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

**All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

## **Call to confession**

Our sin is before us, leading us astray. Let us return to God through our prayer of confession.

## **Prayer of confession**

Merciful God, we have followed the desires of our own hearts and neglected the needs of our neighbors. Forgive our hard and selfish ways. Turn us to Christ and Christ's righteous path. Guide our steps in mission and ministry. Amen.

## **Assurance of pardon**

We are an Easter people, forgiven and freed, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. Amen.

## **Prayer for illumination**

God our helper, guide us into and through your word, that we might be shaped by your Spirit's message to us today and transformed for service in your 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 the 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.

**Call for the offering**

As Christ's disciples, let us offer our gifts to his ministry.

**Prayer of dedication**

Risen Savior, responding to your love and grace, we offer our gifts  
of time, talent and service. May our offerings feed the hungry,  
cloth the poor, quench the thirsty, and shelter the vulnerable.  
Amen.



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

**Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!** (*Revelation 7:12*)

On this fourth Sunday of Easter, as the scent of lilies linger and the flowering cross not yet a distant memory, hold your resurrection glory before us as our guide and our hope, O God. May this season plant seeds of new life and yield growth and maturity in Christ. May the presence of your Spirit be our steady hope and faithful friend.

**Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!** (*Revelation 7:12*)

For mothers around the world today, we give you thanks, O God. We give thanks for the countless ways mothers and mother-figures nurture, educate and inspire. Bless the women who hold and heal, who shelter and protect, who liberate themselves and others from that which discourages and curbs feminine potential. Within our varied roles and with our differing gifts, let us find the fulfillment of our humanity.

**Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!** (*Revelation 7:12*)

Righteous God, in a world torn by war, keep us from hate that hardens and scorekeeping with human lives. When our world is troubled and violence the chosen path, be near to judge and save. May our leaders be led by your wisdom. May humility be our companion and friend. May our hearts be moved by just love and loving justice.

**Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever!** (*Revelation 7:12*)

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!

Live into the hope of Christ's resurrection!

Honor the God who calls you to new life!

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  
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