



Order of Worship

7th Sunday of Easter

May 29, 2022

Call to worship *(from Psalm 97)*

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory.
Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

Call to confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us. Christ even prays for us. With such assurance, we need not fear confession but simply draw near to our maker in candor.

Prayer of confession

Almighty God,
you have raised Jesus from death to life,
and crowned him Lord of all.
We confess that we have not bowed before him,
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.
We have gone along with the ways of the world,
and failed to give him glory.
Forgive us,
and raise us from sin,
that we may be your faithful people,
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who rules the world,
and is head of the church, his body.



Assurance of pardon

The saying is true and worthy of full acceptance that Christ died to save sinners. Siblings, believe the promise of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer for illumination

O God, as we fully experience the good news of Easter and look toward the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, open our hearts and minds to your Word dwelling within us, calling us to unity in Christ.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith *(From the Confession of 1967)*

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations. God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinners. The power of God's love to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.



Call for the offering

Jesus prayed:

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. Living in the world, we gather the gifts we have received, and bring them before God, offering back what we have, so that the world may know the love of Christ and become one.

Prayer of dedication

As Elisha took up Elijah's mantle, we present these gifts that through them the church may take up the mantle of Christ and proclaim his Word to the world through acts of justice and love. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's prayer

Our God, the heavens declare your glory and the firmament shows for the work of your hands. One day tells its tale to another and each night imparts knowledge to the next.

The sun, the moon, the seas, the dry lands, the plants that enrich the earth,

the creatures that swim and fly and run,
all these gifts of your creation,
although they have no words or language,
their sound goes out to all the lands,
and their messages to the ends of the earth.

We offer our prayers for the earth and recommit ourselves to honor and protect it. May we hear the cries of creation, and see in its power and beauty your own image, and your deep love for what you have made.

May we love all of your creation — every grain of sand, every leaf, every ray of light, ancient trees, pollinating bees, and all animals.

May we not trouble the earth's life, or waste its resources, or abuse its beauty.

May we look on the natural world with reverence and acknowledge that we are small in the vastness of the universe.

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We know that for you, O God, all life is like an ocean, all is flowing and blending, and that when we withhold any measure of love from anything in your universe, we withhold that same measure of love from you.

Lord God, as we pray, we bring our sisters and brothers, strangers and neighbors into your presence.

We rejoice with those who rejoice today:
those who have found love,
those who have been healed of disease,
those who look forward to marriage, or the birth of children,
those who have meaningful work, and happy families,
those who have safe and happy homes,
those who worship you in freedom and the beauty of holiness.

And we weep with those who weep today:
those who are sick in their bodies, their minds, their spirits,
those who have lost beloved sons and daughters and fathers and mothers
to gun violence,
those who have lost jobs, or who cannot find meaningful work and struggle for ways to use their gifts,
those who flee their own lands and homes, seeking refuge, and the strength and grace of a new community.

We weep today for and with the people of Ukraine who face unimaginable loss and suffering as their cities and home and families and lives are destroyed by brutal violence.
Bring them peace.

Be close to all who suffer this day, O God. And even in the midst of suffering, we offer the gratitude that is in our hearts: gratitude for our lives, for our church community, for the freedom to worship, for the food and shelter and friendship that sustain us each day.

By your Holy Spirit, hold the church in unity, and keep it faithful to your Word, so that, breaking bread together, we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service, now and forever.

We pray these things in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying, **“Our Father...”**



Charge and benediction

As you follow the journey of discipleship into the post-Resurrection world, remember that Christ prays for you, and draws you into the very heart of God.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and may God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, remain with you always. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Barbara Chaapel and provided for free distribution.

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