



Order of Worship

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 31, 2022

Call to worship *(Based on Psalm 49:1-4)*

Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all inhabitants of the world:

**We are both low and high;
we are rich and poor together;**

Listening for wisdom,
longing for understanding,

**We incline our ears
to hear God's wisdom in our gathering.**

Call to confession

We know that we have fallen short of God's ideal for our lives. Let us confess our sin to God now, trusting in God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ.

Prayer of confession

Heavenly Creator, forgive us when we focus on earthly accumulation rather than on spiritual faithfulness. Forgive us when we are overcome by greed and neglect the needs of those around us. Forgive us when we turn inward and shirk the responsibilities of community. We seek renewal and new life in you. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

In Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven and God has given us new life. Thanks be to God. Amen.



Prayer for illumination

O God, we thank you for your Word given to us in the written words of Scripture and for your living Word Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, open us to receive your word and to be transformed it. 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

We share from our abundance so that we might be rich toward God. Let us offer our gifts in worship.



Prayer of dedication

Receive these, our gifts, O Lord, and use them to bring good news to those in need of hope and renewal. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

Holy God, the world pressures us to accumulate more and more abundance. If only we had more, we believe we would achieve success. We worry about the future. If only we had more, we imagine we could finally relax. Remind us, once again, that we are your children. You created us in your image and gifted us for community life. You have called us and claimed us as your own. You give our lives meaning and you instill us with value as your people. Remind us, O Lord, of this good news.

We pray for those who do not know the good news of their own value in your eyes. We pray for those who feel like they are running on a hamster wheel every day, trying to get ahead and making no progress. We pray for those who are trying to prove themselves and constantly feel like they are falling short. We pray for those who are burdened by a false sense of independence, unable to ask for help or to admit frailty. We pray for those who have been victimized by greed and selfishness. For all these your people, we ask for the power of your good news to bring new life.

You have knit us together into community. In Jesus Christ, we are renewed and the divisions among us are overcome. Teach us the ways of interdependence. Grant us generosity to share our resources with one another. Open us to receive the wisdom and gifts of our siblings in Christ. Clothe us with new life and enable us to live faithfully in this time and place.

Hear our prayers, holy God, and respond with your grace. Now we join our voices to pray as Christ taught us: **"Our Father ..."**.



Charge and benediction

Go into the world, knowing that you are rich in God's eyes, and you have been given new life in Jesus Christ. May that good news transform you. May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with you this day and every day. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Rev. Dr. Millie Snyder
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