



Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Lent
March 12, 2023

Call to worship (based on Psalm 42:1-2)

As a deer longs for flowing streams

so our souls long for you, O God.

Our souls thirst for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and behold the face of God?

Call to confession

As thirsty people wandering through this season of Lent, we seek God's forgiveness and grace in this moment of honest confession.

Prayer of confession

Gracious God, as we wander through the wilderness this Lent, we are more aware of our thirst for your presence, your love, your guidance on life's journey. Forgive us for turning away from you. Forgive our doubt and uncertainty that led us to place our faith in worldly comforts that don't run deep enough and don't last. We come to your well today desperate and thirsty for Christ's living water. Quench our thirst, we pray. Grant us your forgiveness and your grace. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Jesus said, "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty." Come, drink deep, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

Prayer for illumination (Book of Common Worship)

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving Word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts — a spring of hope for a thirsty world. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon





Affirmation of faith (Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Call for the offering

God gives generously. Let us honor God by giving generously in return.

Prayer of dedication

God of grace, you provide for all our needs. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing and the destitute. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of glory, we thirst for your presence in the midst of loneliness and despair, for your spirit of love poured into our hearts, for Christ's living water that quenches eternally. May all your children know that they belong, that they are loved, that they are wonderfully made.

Hear our silent prayers to know your presence in the midst of suffering, O God.

God of life, we thirst for knowledge of you at work in our world, dispelling our doubt and uncertainty. We pray for you to right what is wrong, banish evil and restore order in the midst of chaos. Turn our world towards peace.

Hear our silent prayers to know the ways you are at work in our world, O God.

God of hope, we thirst for healing and harmony, for an end to violence and living in fear of the next mass shooting. We pray for an end to bipartisan fighting, legislative meltdowns, and political turmoil that serves no citizen well. Fashion our world, our nation, our communities into places





that reflect your peaceable kin-dom, where every life is valued, everyone's dignity respected.

Hear our silent prayers for healing and harmony, O God.
In your mercy, O God, hear the prayers of your people. Help us walk with you during this Lenten season, so we can learn and grow in your embrace. Help us follow in the footsteps of our Savior, who calls on us to pray as he prayed, **"Our Father..."**.

Charge and benediction (from the Book of Common Worship)

Beloved people of God;
I invite you, in the name of Christ,
to continue to observe a holy Lent
by self-examination and penitence,
by prayer and fasting,
by works of love,
and by meditating on Gods' word.

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

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott
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