



Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023

Call to worship (Based on John 20:19-31)

Christ is risen! He greets us with a word of peace.

We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

Christ is risen! Locked doors and doubting hearts cannot keep him away.

We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

Christ is risen! He comes to bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

Call to confession

Christ is risen. Yet we often act as if he is still in the tomb. Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace of new life through Christ.

Prayer of confession

Savior God, forgive our doubts and disbelief. You show up in our lives, yet we fail to notice you and demand more proof. We expect more when you have already given us enough. Forgive our lack of faith. Forgive our lack of gratitude. Redeem us. Restore us. Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

“Jesus came and stood among [the disciples] and said, ‘Peace be with you’” (John 20:19).

Know that you are forgiven and receive Christ’s peace. Alleluia. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Savior God, you’ve gifted us with the Holy Spirit as our advocate and guide. Open us to the Spirit’s breath. Carry us on the wings of your wisdom. Set us on the solid foundation of your Word read and proclaimed. May we hear the truth you intend for us today. 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

Christ is risen! Hallelujah! Let us gratefully give of our offerings in praise of Christ's ministry through us and for us.

Prayer of dedication

Risen and redeeming God, you have given us more than we could ever give you in return. You are gracious and generous in your love. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of grace, your Son moves through locked doors, and into our places of fear. We are grateful for the peace Christ offers and his encouragement to continue along the path of faith, even when we face challenges and temptations. On this second Sunday of Easter, we call to mind your suffering people. Holy God, hear our prayers on behalf of:

- Those who are exhausted by their lives and carrying heavy loads.
- Those whose fear and anxiety traps them in small places and small lives.
- Those who are overwhelmed or depressed and cannot find their joy.
- Those who need resurrection but are still stuck in the tomb.

Mighty God, Healer of Nations, hear our prayers for peace and for non-violent conflict resolution. Our world is torn apart by war, violence, and





abuse. Holy God, hear our prayers on behalf of:

- The people and country of Ukraine.
- Russian citizens conscripted into war.
- Innocent lives destroyed and families torn apart by the madness of violence.
- Political leaders prioritizing peace and nonviolent conflict resolution.
- God of hope, you resurrect us from our places of despair, turning us toward your promises of peace. Help us rejoice in the beauty that surrounds us. Help us attend to the gifts you abundantly provide. Holy God, hear our prayers of gratitude for:
 - The grace and support of loved ones who get us through difficult days.
 - The joy of laughter, play and good fun.
 - Your creation that awakens with springtime blooms.
 - Opportunities to follow Christ in meaningful service and lives of purpose.

Ground us in your good news, O God, and keep our feet steady on Christ's path. May we return to worship you again and again, and to pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying, **"Our Father...."**

Charge and benediction

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe"
(John 20:29).

We leave this sanctuary a blessed people.
Let us go now and be a blessing to others.

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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