

Order of Worship

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 6, 2023

Call to worship (based on Matthew 14:16-17, 20)

God willingly satisfies our greatest needs
when we bring what little we have.
Let us love our neighbor as ourself
joining in God's miracle-working power.

Call to confession

In this world of multiple pandemics and the promotion of individualism, there are many claims on our lives. In this moment, we remember the nature of our baptism, rooted in God's grace. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed the model set before us in Jesus Christ.

With every confidence in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of confession

O Lord our God,
you call us to love our neighbor as ourself,
ensuring that all will be fed and have dignity.
But in our own distractions, we are blinded by our selfish desires.

We are sick and have turned away those
who are hungry and crying out for your help.
We have forgotten to trust you with our little,
to multiply it with your great power.

Forgive us, O Lord.
Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit,
so that all may know your abundance and grace;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.





Assurance of pardon

Hear the good news!

The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
The Lord is good to all,
and compassionate toward all of creation.

Believe this good news and give thanks:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your divine mouth, make us hunger for heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. 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. Amen.**

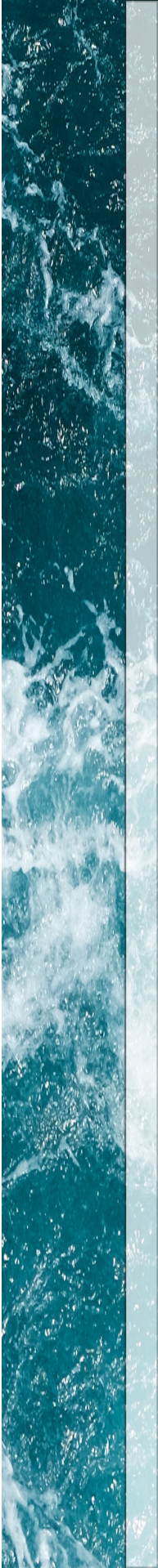
Call for the offering (2 Corinthians 9:7)

God loves a cheerful giver. Let us give with an open heart in order that God would bless and multiply it according to our needs. May we present our offerings to God.

Prayer of dedication

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you





have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Compassionate, healing, and all-providing God,
your Word in the Gospel of Matthew says,
when the people heard of your coming,
they followed you on foot
and you had compassion on them and healed them.

Without question, judgement, or classification,
you met the crowd where they were
and through your power, provided every need.
Your church is in need today, Gracious God.

We are in need of your compassion, Jehovah Rohi — our Shepherd.
Save us from our selfish modes of individualism
that seeks to look out, far beyond the crowd
rather than seeing what's right in front of us.

We are in need of your healing, Jehovah Rapha — our Healer.
For those who are weak, suffering and vulnerable;
For those impacted by mental illness, anxiety and depression;
calm their fears. May they be surrounded
with your healing presence and know they are not alone.

We are in need of your provision, Jehovah Jireh — our Provider.
Feed us your everlasting Word that sustains us from day to day.
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
you lead us to green grass in dry desolate places
where you multiply what little we have
and feed us until we want no more.

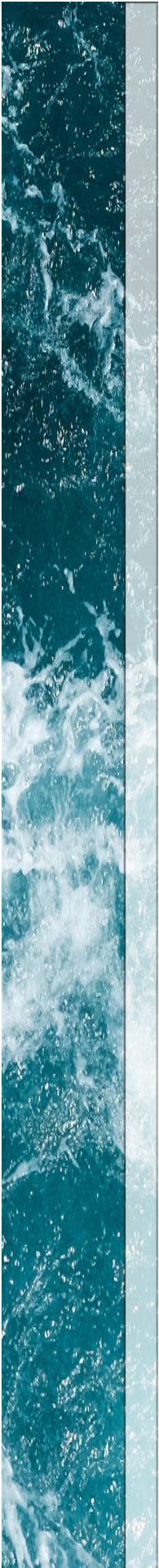
Abba God, your people are following you today,
seeking to be transformed by your Holy Spirit.
Create in us, hearts to become miracle-working change-agents in the
world,
proclaiming the might of your awesome deeds.

Hear our prayer, as Christ taught us to pray, **"Our Father ..."**.

Charge and benediction (based on Matthew 14:13-21; Psalm 145:8)

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold onto what is good;
return no on evil for evil;
send no one away; instead,
feed all those who are hungry;
support the weak;
help the suffering;





honor all people;
love thy neighbor as thyself;
love and serve the gracious and merciful Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Dana Moulds and provided for
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