



Order of Worship

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
October 1, 2023

Call to worship (from Luke 13:29)

People will come from east and west,
from north and south,
and will eat in the kingdom of God.

Thanks be to God for welcoming us to the table.

Call to confession

Sin is our stumbling block. Repentance clears the way to hear and receive God's truth. Let us confess our sins together.

Prayer of confession

Gracious God, we are indebted to you and your generosity. But we fail to live as good stewards of all you have given us. We confiscate and consume far more than our fair share. We neglect the poor and trap people in poverty, claiming that debt forgiveness is unfair. God, liberate us from our spiritual and moral bondage. Free our world for jubilee. Re-order our priorities so all your nations and peoples may thrive. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (2 Corinthians 5:17; Book of Common Worship)

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

Scripture readings



Sermon

Affirmation of faith (Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Call for the offering

We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

Prayer of dedication

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.





Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Savior God, you are the bread of life, and we are a hungry people. You gather us from east and west, from north and south for nourishment at your table, to fill our empty cups, to meet the longing of our hearts. On this World Communion Sunday, we gather with our global siblings, remembering the breadth of our Christian community.

As your bread is broken and your cup is shared, we remember the people of the world who are suffering and struggling, those in particular need of your love and grace, and the planet entrusted to our care. As we participate in your kingdom feast, we also praise you for the blessings you have bestowed upon us. Incline your ear to us, Holy God, as we raise our prayers for our planet and the world's people.

Savior God,
hear our prayers.

For nations at war and their citizens, we pray for peace. No one wins in a world addicted to domination and violence. Help us see the error of our violent ways. Help us chart a new course and build a more just society that prioritizes the welfare of all your people.

Savior God,
hear our prayers.

For our earth, our partner in service and our home, we pray for renewal. As our planet warms, our climate changes, and natural disasters wreak havoc on all of life, help us value our natural resources and treat them with respect. May the urgency of the earth's need galvanize us into action.

Savior God,
hear our prayers.

For developing countries in Africa, Asia, and South America, we pray for opportunity, for economic security, for education and healthcare. May the poor be embraced and poverty eradicated. May all lives be regarded with the love and respect your children deserve.

Savior God,
hear our prayers.

Ground us in your good news, O God, and hearten us with your hope-filled promise of redemption through Jesus Christ. We are grateful for the ways you are active and at work in our world and we revel in your presence. Keep us steady on Christ's path, following his teachings, loving as he loved.

Finally, hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying: **"Our Father..."**





Charge and benediction

Filled and fed by the bounty of God's table,
the Spirit sends us into the world to live, and love, and serve as Christ's
disciples.
As we go, may God bless us with faith, hope, peace and love.
Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided
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