

# Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 4, 2024

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## Call to worship (based on Psalm 147)

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving!

**How good it is to sing praises to our God.**

For God is gracious, healing the brokenhearted, binding up their wounds.

**God's understanding is beyond measure. Praise the Lord!**

## Call to confession

God our Creator knows us each by name and knows our hearts. Let us confess our sins before our God, who desires to save us and set us free.

## Prayer of confession

**Gracious God, it's tempting to give up and give in, to hide from the injustices of the world, to protect ourselves and our own, to turn off the evening news full of bad news. Forgive our sins of escape, of ignoring, of turning our backs on those in need. Forgive our sins of apathy when you call us to action. Renew us, Holy God, by your grace. Strengthen us to follow Christ's call. Amen.**

## Assurance of pardon (Psalm 103:17)

"The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting."

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

## Prayer for illumination

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your Way. Clear our minds of daily distractions. Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive the message 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**

With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our tithes  
and gifts to God.

## **Prayer of dedication**

O God, maker and provider, you have blessed us with many gifts. Use  
us, and what we have gathered, to feed the world through your love;  
through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

Almighty God, we await you in prayer, bowing our heads before you,  
humbling seeking your presence, your help, your hope. You taught us to  
pray not only for ourselves but for people everywhere. Hear us now as  
we pray for others, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Inspire the whole church to bear witness to Christ's power and love. May  
we embody your Triune unity and work together for peace.

Lead all nations in the way of justice. Direct those who govern to seek  
paths of diplomacy and peace, to calm the troubled waters of conflict, to  
respect the dignity of all life, and to defend oppressed people.

Awaken all people to the damage we have inflicted upon the earth. Instill  
in us a reverence for your creation that we may preserve its delicate  
balance for all coming generations.

Comfort and relieve, O God, all who are experiencing trouble ... sorrow  
... poverty ... sickness ... grief ... especially those known to us, whom we  
name before you now in silence ... Heal these souls in body, mind or



circumstance, renewing them by your grace, helping them face their challenges with the strength of faith.

We lift these prayers to you, Gracious God, confident that you hear us and know even the prayers we are too afraid to pray. Hear us now as we join our hearts and our voices to pray the prayer Jesus taught us to pray by saying ... **“Our Father...”**.

**Charge and benediction** (Isaiah 40:31)

“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles.  
They shall run and not be weary.”

Friends, receive and believe in this good news! God is our refuge and our strength.

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

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided  
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