



Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024

Call to worship

Into our fears and through our locked doors.

Come, Almighty God.

When we think 'peace be with you,' means no change or disruption,

Come, Lord Jesus.

Amidst our lives that confuse religious entertainment with Easter fulfillment,

Come, Holy Spirit.

For the sake of a community meant to be its best during crisis,

Come Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Call to confession

When we stand at the baptismal font and confess our sins we are not doing so as lost, guilty and ambiguous human beings who are not sure of our standing before God. We do not come groveling, but we come confident as those who are no longer dead in our trespasses but who are already alive in Jesus Christ. Without God's grace, we would not even know we are sinners. So we confess together:

Prayer of confession

O Lord our God, we think our best should happen when we are in control. Forgive us for not expecting the risen Christ to show up when we are anxious, content to lock the doors of your house for fear of all that is outside.

Forgive us for thinking that church mainly happens inside these walls and not into the world you so love and into which we are sent. Forgive us for looking for your power in all the conventional places but never in places of brokenness, crisis and defeat.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, repair what we are, and by the power of Christ's resurrection, raise us up to serve others for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.





Assurance of pardon

You are already forgiven, loved and whole.

In Christ, you are a fully flourishing human being; go live like it. In the Spirit, you are not an isolated spiritual being, doing Christianity alone, but you are part of a community of faith; go build that. By the grace of God, every human being is seen, loved, and made whole; go practice that. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Divine Redeemer, bearer of life, open us to the wisdom of your Word today and enlighten us with your truth. Liberate us from all that distracts us and turns us from your path. Guide us and ground us in Christ's everlasting hope. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from *The Study Catechism*, Questions 43 and 46)

What do you affirm when you say that he was "crucified, dead, and buried"?

That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death, he showed us that there is no sorrow that he has not known, no grief he has not borne, and no price he was unwilling to pay in order to reconcile us to God.

What do you affirm when you say that 'on the third day he rose again from the dead'?

That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.

Call for the offering

We become who we are called to be not through getting, acquiring and possessing but in our giving. To that end, let us worship God by giving our good gifts.

Prayer of dedication

Good and gracious God, help us to say thank you, to live with gratitude, to look for the best in each other, and to live charitably with all. May your resurrection never stop surprising us, disrupting us and transforming us, until Christ's kingdom comes. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Eternal God, give us grateful hearts for the divine mysteries we cannot explain, solve or grasp. Thank you that the good news of Christ's resur-





rection continues to impact this world with its ripples. May this miracle and its ongoing aftermath disrupt us even as it comforts us, may it send us out to risk telling others the life-changing story.

We thank you for the beauty of this worship service, the singing of your praises, the rhythm of the seasons, and the fullness of this day. We remember those who Christ made a priority in his midst: People who lived outside the legal codes, the social codes and the cultural norms. Remind us that Christ not only welcomed those presumed to be unworthy but liberated their full dignity and humanity. Show us how this is something Christ continues to do in our midst despite the narratives of division that try to put Christ back in the tomb. Give us eyes to see. Give us courage to act.

To that end, we pray for this community and for the mission of the universal church. Like those mourning male and female disciples who could barely see the risen Christ through their despair, we are prone to pessimism. Remind us that Easter is always a miracle and that we are at our best when we walk by faith and not by sight. Remind us that we are called and equipped to be people of hope in a world entombed by death. Remind us that you are at work even now, giving us what we need to share our faith with others. It is in the name of our resurrected Lord we pray, **“Our Father....”**

Charge and benediction

Jesus says: ‘As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’

The work of church is not over; it has just begun.

Go with joy where the crucified and risen Christ is sending you.

And as you go, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, go with you, now and forevermore. Amen.

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2024

Liturgy written by Chris Currie and provided for free distribution.

For more resources, visit pres-outlook.org

