



# Order of Worship

Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 12, 2024

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## Call to worship (based on Psalm 1)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked

**We delight in God's Word, we meditate on God day and night.**

Our worship grounds us in God, like trees planted by streams of water

**God helps us yield good fruit. We do not wither when we spend time in God's presence.**

## Call to confession

As this Easter season comes to a close, we turn again to God to confess our sins, the sins of our community and our society, to prepare ourselves to live into the redemption Christ offers.

## Prayer of confession

**Savior God, we invite you into our lives for a season, only to forget and neglect you once again. You beckon us, calling for our attention, but we are distracted and busy taking care of other priorities. Remind us, Holy God, that you are the source of our flourishing. You are the living water by which we have been planted. Forgive our neglect. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Focus us on you, your Word, and all that your Spirit provides. Amen.**

## Assurance of pardon

Christ forgives. Christ transforms. Christ renews. Christ leads us down the path of new beginnings. We are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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** (from the Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.

Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.

## **Call for the offering**

With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our 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**

Womb of Creation, Wellspring of Life, on this Mother's Day we give  
thanks for the way you nurture and care for each of us as your beloved  
children. We praise you for your comfort and care, for the ways you wrap  
your divine arms around us and pull us close, for the ways you suffer  
when we suffer, like a mother aching and grieving over the pain of her  
child.

God of Wisdom, Nurturer of Hope, we also give thanks for the faithful  
lives of women without children, for the abundant gifts they share, for  
the fruitful lives they live. For all those for whom "Mother's Day" is pain-





ful, we pray the church can be a place that embraces and celebrates all expressions of love and all those who delight in the care and upbringing of God's children.

God who provides, help us to know and care for people who are need of your mercy and grace. Today, we turn our attention to:

- The innocent caught in the crosshairs of war ...
- Political leaders seeking paths to peace, but who are stymied by powerful opposition ...
- The grieving, the exhausted, the depressed ...
- The displaced, the threatened, the unjustly persecuted ...
- The sick and those who care for them ...

Now hear us as we pray together the prayer our Savior taught us saying, "Our Father...".

### **Charge and benediction**

We are an Easter people! Christ is risen! Live into the hope of Christ's resurrection and follow the Spirit to those who most need God's love, mercy and care.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you now and always. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution.

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