

# Order of Worship

Second Sunday after Pentecost  
June 2, 2024

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## Call to worship

We come together to observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**Renew us by your Spirit, Lord.**

We come together to praise God with festive songs and shouts of joy!

**Renew us by your Spirit, Lord.**

We come together to hear the voice of our Savior calling us to compassion.

**Renew us by your Spirit, Lord.**

We come together to experience the abundance of God's grace.

**Let us worship God.**

## Call to confession

In the midst of busy lives, our time of corporate confession gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on how we spend our time. Have we dedicated ourselves to loving others? Have we spent our energy on things that bring life to us and those around us? Christ invites us to bring our best and worst to him in prayer, that he might offer us his healing and his peace. Let us pray.

## Prayer of confession

**Lord of Life, you call us to rest, but we are too busy working. You call us to offer rest to others, but we are too busy demanding. You call us to remember that you are always at work in our lives, but we are too busy worrying. Forgive our constant striving and our obsession with work. Remind us that our value comes from you, not from anything we produce or how productive we appear to others. Teach us the rhythms of your grace, and grant us rest for our weary souls. Amen.**

## Assurance of pardon

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Christ lifts the heavy burdens of sin and frees us for new life in his name. Trust that you are forgiven, and be at peace.



## Prayer for illumination

Holy God, as a deep breath fills our lungs with air, so fill us with your Spirit as we hear your Word this day. Ground us in your love, convict us with your truth, and move us to respond, that we may embody your good news in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Scripture readings

## Sermon

## Affirmation of faith (from A 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

We believe in a God who provides abundantly for our needs. In gratitude, let us share a portion of what we have been given, for the work of this community and the benefit of our neighbors.

## Prayer of dedication

Provider God, we give you thanks for all your good gifts to us: for work and rest, for creativity and play, for this community in which to practice our faith together. Take these offerings we bring today and use them to meet the needs of those around us. May our work and witness reflect our belief in your compassionate care for us and for all you have created. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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

God of grace, we thank you for the gift of Sabbath rest. You have not created us for endless labor but have, instead, created us in your image. You created the world and called it good, and you give us the power to create beauty, too. You fashioned the world for love, and you call us into the work of love, too. You rested on the seventh day, and you invite us to rest, too. Help us to accept the good gifts you offer to us. Teach us to resist the temptations of our productivity-obsessed culture. Give us the grace to close our laptops, turn off our phones and make time for connection, for wonder, for joy.

We pray for those who are overworked, whether by necessity or out of anxiety. We pray for those who work endlessly but still do not have



enough to make ends meet. We pray for those who are searching for work without success, or who find themselves unfulfilled by the work they do. Provide for all who are in need, Lord. Grant rest to exhausted bodies and frazzled minds. When we have the opportunity to ease someone else's burdens, move us to offer grace. And lead us to seek social changes that would enable all to have good work to do, enough to meet their needs, and freedom to enjoy the life that you have given to us.

We pray, too, for your overworked creation, Sovereign God. Remind us of your commandment not only to let ourselves rest, but to let the Earth rest, as well. Curb our greed and teach us to reduce our consumption, that the ecosystems you have created would have the chance to flourish alongside the human beings you have created. Make us partners in your healing work, Lord.

We pray for those we love who are in need of your healing in body, mind or spirit, Loving God. Especially we pray for... (name specific prayer requests here). Tend the sick and bind up the brokenhearted; draw near to the lonely and soothe the anxious; comfort all those who mourn. Make us instruments of your peace and bearers of your compassion.

Lord of all, we pray for the church in this place and in every place. Fill us with deep and holy joy, that we might reflect your goodness to the world around us. May we join you in drawing the whole creation into your divine rhythms of work and rest. We ask these things in Christ's name, and together we pray as he taught us: **"Our Father ...."**

### **Charge and benediction**

As you go out from this place, remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Make time to savor God's creation, to rest from work and worry, and to bask in the goodness of all God's gifts to us. And remember that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit will be with you wherever you go.

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Liturgy written by Ellen Williams Hensle and provided for free distribution.

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