



Order of Worship

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 7, 2024

Call to worship

We come from the day-to-day busyness of our lives.

We come with cares and worries, joys and celebrations.

Let us set it all aside and enter this time of worship.

May our hearts and minds be open to what God might say to us this day.

Trusting always in the Spirit to meet us,

let us gather to worship God!

Call to confession

When we gather to worship God, we must first be honest with ourselves. We are not who God has called us to be as a people. We have not cared for others in every instance. We have made many mistakes. Let us unburden ourselves and confess our sins, knowing that God awaits to forgive and renew.

Prayer of confession

Gracious God, we live in the tension of what we are called to be and our lived reality. We often fall short of the good we intend and our growing in the likeness of Christ is painfully slow at best. Forgive us we pray. Offer us the peace that passes all understanding that we might be forgiven and begin anew. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Assurance of pardon

Hear the Good News! The old life is gone, a new life has begun. You are not who you were, may you live into who you can be. Know you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer for illumination

Loving God, open our hearts and minds to what you would say to us this day. Speak Lord, for your people are listening. Amen.

Scripture readings





Sermon

Affirmation of faith (adapted from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*)

We believe when Jesus spoke, he spoke with God's authority. When Jesus acted, he acted with God's power. Jesus amazed people with his deeds of power, but he was also gentle and loving. Even now, he cares for us in all our needs as a shepherd cares for sheep. Jesus also called his disciples to follow him. Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, blessed children, befriended outcasts, required people to repent, and forgave their sins. He taught people not to fear, but to always trust in God. He preached the good news of God's love and gave everyone hope for new life. We live our lives in gratitude for the person and work of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Call for the offering

All that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. Let us then give back a portion of that goodness to God's work in the world.

Prayer of dedication

Gracious God, we offer these gifts to you. May they be used to bring grace and healing to this hurting world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of grace and God of glory, you created the world out of your great love and you care for all that is in it. Hear us now as we share our prayers for your beloved creation.

We pray for the earth, especially mindful of the abuse it suffers under the hands of humanity. Guide us in better caring for our natural world and may all be filled with the conviction that we are to be good stewards of your creation.

We pray for the world and its leaders. May wars cease and may the lowest be lifted up. Guide those in power to visions of the greatest good and may they be guided by your Holy Spirit more than anything else.

We pray for our local communities. May they flourish and reflect your gracious view of the kingdom. Make us each bearers of grace and healing in our particular part of the world. May we be the beloved community you created us to be.

We ask for your special blessing upon those who are sick, suffering, or mired in grief, anxiety, and depression. May your Spirit lift them into health and wholeness and may you show us each how to be the hands and feet of Christ to them.

More than anything else, Lord God, we give you thanks for your care and provision to all. May we live in gratitude for the grace you have shared. It is in Jesus' name we pray, saying the prayer he taught us, "Our Father..."



Charge and benediction

May you each go out with nothing but words of grace and healing, relying on Jesus Christ, who always gives us what we need. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the father, and the fellowship of the Spirit be with you all. Amen.

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