



# Order of Worship

18th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 22, 2024

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## Call to worship (based on Psalm 1)

Blessed are those who delight in the law of the Lord,

**And meditate on God's word day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,

**Which yield their fruit in its season.**

**Let us worship the Lord, our source of wisdom and strength.**

## Call to confession (1 John 1:8,9)

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

## Prayer of confession (inspired by James 3:13-4:3)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have often acted out of selfish ambition and vain conceit. We have allowed envy and self-interest to guide our actions, rather than the wisdom that comes from above. Forgive us for the times we have caused conflicts and quarrels among ourselves and others. Help us to submit ourselves to you, resist the devil, and draw near to your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Assurance of pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

As far as the East is from the West, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. Walk in the newness of life!

## Prayer for illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be renewed and transformed. Amen.

## Scripture readings





## Sermon

### **Affirmation of faith** (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

**In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"  
With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **Call for the offering**

In gratitude to God for all our blessings, let us bless others with a portion of all we have been given. Let us present our offerings to God.

### **Prayer of dedication**

Gracious God, we offer these gifts to you as an expression of our gratitude and love. May they be used to nurture wisdom, foster peace, and serve those in need. As we dedicate these offerings, help us to embody the spirit of humility and service that Christ has witnessed among us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

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

Gracious God, as autumn unfolds around us, we are reminded of your steadfast love that endures through all seasons. Like trees planted by streams of water, may we be rooted in your wisdom and bear good fruit in due season.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our nation as we approach elections. Grant our leaders and candidates the humility to serve rather than to be served. May they seek the wisdom that comes from above — pure, peace-loving and full of mercy.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

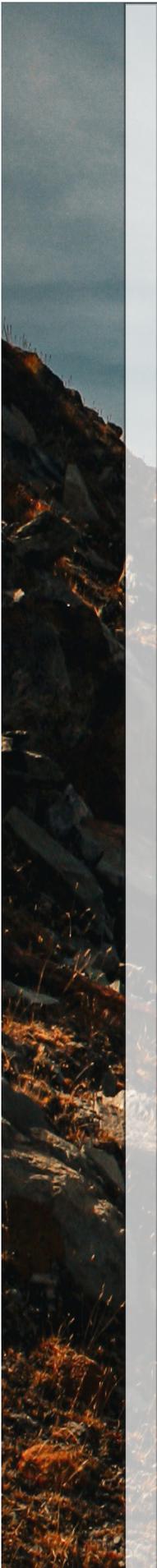
We lift up to you the conflicts and crises in our world. [Specific world events can be mentioned here]. Bring your peace to areas of strife, comfort to those who suffer, and justice to the oppressed.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church, that we may embody the servant leadership of Christ. Help us to welcome the children and the vulnerable, to care for the least among us, and to resist selfish ambition.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**





We remember those in our community who are struggling — the sick, the lonely, the unemployed. May our hands be your hands, reaching out in love and support.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

As we enter this season of harvest, we thank you for your abundant blessings. Like the woman of noble character, may we use our resources wisely and generously for the good of others.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Guide us, O Lord, in the coming weeks and months. May we resist envy and selfish ambition, draw near to you, and pursue the righteousness that comes from heavenly wisdom.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying: **“Our Father...”**.

### **Charge and benediction** (*Book of Common Worship*)

Go forth into the world in peace.

Be of good courage.

Hold fast to what is good.

Render to no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted.

Honor all people.

Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit nourish you, animate you and lead you — this day and forever more.

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Liturgy written by Bobby Hulme-Lippert and provided for free distribution.

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