



# Order of Worship

25th Sunday after Pentecost  
November 10, 2024

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## Call to worship (Psalm 146)

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

**Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

**The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

## Call to confession (Nehemiah 9:17)

God is ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us turn to God in honesty and humility, ready to confess our sins.

## Prayer of confession

**Merciful God, forgive our systemic sins, the way we build and support and collaborate with oppression. Open our eyes to the injustice of wealth inequality. Open our hearts to righting our societal wrongs. Forgive our excuses, our apathy, our votes cast only for our benefit, or that of our nation's. Help us follow Christ in prioritizing the poor and vulnerable. Help us build your beloved community where all belong, and all may flourish. Amen.**

## Assurance of pardon (Psalm 34:22)

"The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned." Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**





## **Prayer for illumination** (adapted from Psalm 19:14)

Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. As we approach your Word, may we be ready to receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

## **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**

## **Affirmation of faith** (from the Confession of Belhar)

- 1. We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.**
- 2. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.**
- 3. We believe**
  - that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.
  - that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;
  - that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;
  - that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.

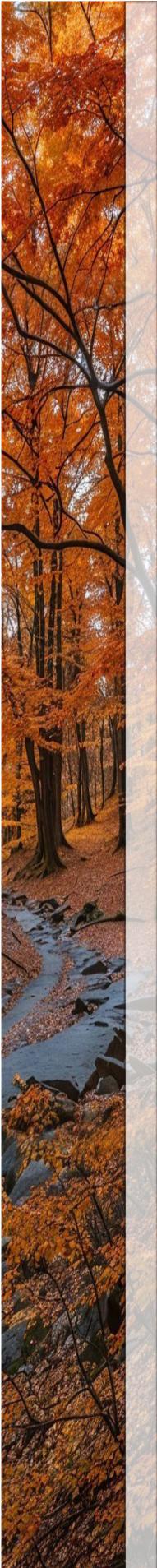
## **Call for the offering** (Acts 20:35)

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

## **Prayer of dedication**

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the Good News of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest





of loads. Amen.

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

God who redeems, ground us in your ethic of love, tune our ears to voices long silenced, open our heart to each other and particularly those who suffer, and help us attend to the many extraordinary ways you are present to us in this world. In this moment of prayer, we pause to give thanks for ...

Our lungs that fill with every breath, reminding us we are alive ...  
Our hearts that beat within us, leading us to love and relationship ...  
Our hands and feet that guide and support us in work and service ...  
Our minds that contemplate your great mysteries through Word and worship ...

God of grace, we offer our prayers for the needs of others and commit ourselves to serve as we have been served in Jesus Christ. In this significant moment in the life of our nation, we pause to pray for ...

Those we have elected to the privilege of political leadership ...  
Those who are exhausted from navigating divisiveness and hostile disagreement ...  
Those burdened by a future full of uncertainty and change ...  
Those in need of courage to embrace change and move forward ...

Merciful God, empower us to love and minister to all who are suffering. Break into our lives to reveal your eternal wisdom and your path of righteousness. Call us to journey together in common purpose and common mission, to be the Body of Christ in this, your world.

Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, **"Our Father ..."**

## Charge and benediction

May we leave this house of worship  
emboldened by the Spirit  
redeemed by God's Grace and  
reminded that the Body of Christ surrounds us  
to for fellowship, help and support.

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

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Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott  
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