



Order of Worship

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 2025

Call to worship (based on Psalm 1)

Like trees planted by streams of water

Let us trust in the Lord

and meditate on God's Word

so we can yield good and bountiful fruit.

Call to confession

Who can understand the heart? Only God. Let us confess the ways we have turned from the One who knows us and saves us.

Prayer of confession

Sustaining God, you lead us through parched wilderness to streams of living water, but we do not root ourselves in health and wholeness. We ignore your rich provisions, choosing the world's latest fad and shallow self-help. We sentimentalize the spiritual and ignore the deeper needs of our souls. Merciful God, forgive our arrogance and our ignorance. Remind us of our spiritual needs and the many ways you are here to provide. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (based on Jeremiah 17:8)

Blessed are those who trust the Lord. When heat comes, our leaves will stay green. In a year of drought, we will not cease to bear fruit. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

The Lord tests the mind and searches the heart. In this moment of proclamation, O God, may our hearts and minds be receptive to you and your way. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon





Affirmation of faith (Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Call for the offering

God has led us to prosperity. Let us return to God a portion of all that we have been given.

Prayer of dedication

God, you have sustained us in lean times and led us to sources of living water. Take these gifts and multiply their blessings for those who are hungry, hurting and in need of your strength. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Trusted God, in our parched landscape we thirst for hope amidst conflict and change. It's difficult to send our roots into streams of your living water. We are distracted and overwhelmed, flitting from one undone task, one fraught decision, one fresh worry to the next. We are like the deer panting for water; our souls long for you. Be our divining rod, O God, leading us to the spiritual streams of support you so graciously provide.

Fount of Life, in your perfect world no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness. Be with those who live amid war and violence. Bless those whose borders are violated by powerful enemy military. Gather all your people under the banner of peace, so we might come to know each other and love each other as we have been called. May our addiction to violence be cured and our wounds healed with your balm of truth, justice and peace.

She who Provides, ground those who are helpless and spinning. Renew those who are weary and overwhelmed. Heal those who are suffering and sick. Love and comfort those who are grieving. Gather us together, Nurturing One, so we can learn to be tender and merciful with one another and with ourselves.





United as the Body of Christ, we lift these prayers to you, Savior God.
Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together...
“Our Father...”

Charge and benediction

Plant yourselves by the streams of God’s living water so you can prosper
and bear good fruit.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God the Creator, God the Re-
deemer, and God the Sustainer be with you now and forevermore.
Amen.

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