



Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

Call to worship (based on Psalm 118:14-29)

God of peace, we enter this holy room knowing the gospel's cornerstones of grace and mercy are often rejected in our world.

Yet we understand that rejection is not the end of the story.

We know that those we have come to know as the builders and the rulers of the world do not have the final word.

The Gospel of Grace is the Lord's doing.

Despite powers and principalities, despite the clamoring of meanness and cruelty,

this is the day that the Lord has made.

Grace is the ground upon which we walk.

Let us rejoice and be glad.

Call to confession

We are called to tell the truth. Those who are perfectly loved need not fear their shadows. When we speak what we fear and what we hope, silence cannot trap us and lies cannot hold us. As much as we are tempted to hide, telling the truth together reminds us that we trust in God's grace and the grace of this community. We remember that God's love yields healing. Honesty, confession, and forgiveness restore us to one another.

As we pray together, we are reminded that our confessions of sin, just like our confessions of faith, are held in community. The literal words matter less than the contrite hearts who speak it. Trusting God loves us, and we love and are loved by each other, let us pray.

Prayer of confession (based on John 20:19-31)

Holy God, we have found ourselves in fear, locked in rooms of inaction and indecision, unclear where we are called or what we could offer. We have lost ourselves in anxiety so loud we have not heard your voice. We have not recognized you on the move in the world, wounds in your side and life in your lungs. We have believed in the finality of your death and assumed all is left to our own meager efforts. We have refused to see, so we might not have to believe the gospel and live our lives accordingly.



God of new life, restore hope throughout our bodies. Help us to breathe again. Strengthen us for the joy that is before us. Grant us eyes to see your beloved people all around us and ears to hear your good news through all the noise. Even as we have looked away, come to see us, call us forth from our locked rooms and bring us out to walk with you in the world you so love.

Assurance of pardon

The God of truth is present to us in the speaking of truth. The Spirit of grace is present to us in the sharing of grace.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer for illumination

Holy God, we have come here for a word of life. As we seek you in your Word, meet us here. Grant us your wisdom and your hope.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Call for the offering

We are called to invest in the church, not just because the church needs money — although, of course, it does. Not just because it needs prayers and hopes and people willing to share all that makes them human. But mostly because we need our practices to speak back to us that we are invested in life together. We believe in gospel hope and structures of mercy. Therefore, our bodily, financial and logistical practices must remind us that our hope is not only in lonesome financial security.



We are called to give because we confess a God who invites us into community. We believe in the preaching of the good news and the binding up of the broken hearted that happens when we share life. Giving reminds us that God calls us beyond ourselves, and this is good news. So come and share in life together – whether you give an offering of prayer or praise, money, or time – come and practice a life invested in community.

Prayer of dedication

God of abundance, take these gifts, which were already yours, and use them to knit us closer to each other and closer to the world you so love. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Christ of New Life, come again to your people in this Easter season. We have come to this room hoping for a blessing, not only for ourselves, but for the people we love and share life with.

Lord, we have been loved and formed by so many, fed and cared for by so many, blessed and carried by so many. When we pray for your people, those who hope and those who suffer, we pray for the people who have made a way for us. We pray, too, for the people who have hurt us.

From the hands that harvest our food to the barkeep who pours our drink and hears our stories, from the engineers that build the stoplights to the inspectors that support our building codes, from the assembly line workers who test our brakes to the regulators who guard the conditions within which they work. For all the people in all the systems that enable us to be here safely now, among our chosen community. Holy God, be with them as they care for us through their labor and remind us of the care we owe them in return.

Holy Spirit, we ask that you bring comfort to those who are frightened —those who face precarity in their physical health, their financial circumstances, their citizenship status. We pray that as structures fail individuals, you might be present to enable our care for each other.

Make a way for us to do right by each other. In an economy of scarcity, we ask that you grant the resources of this abundant world to serve human thriving, balance natural rhythms, and support the ecosystem that is our home and your cathedral. God of the Universe, do not leave us to reap the harvest of our recklessness. Teach us to walk lightly in your way. Lead us to the work that will make our lives a prayer for mercy for this whole world you so love.

Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, **“Our Father...”**



Charge and benediction

Go forth from this room knowing that our God can no longer be held in locked rooms, that blessings and new life and cosmic peace has come for us — and that we are not the only ones.

And may God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you, those you love and for whom you pray, now and forevermore.



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