



Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

Call to worship (based on Psalm 30)

You have turned our mourning into dancing;

You have taken off our sackcloth and clothed us with joy.

Our souls may praise you and not be silent:

O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

Call to confession

Occasionally, God invites us into confession and repentance with a blinding light from the heavens. But often, God invites us into relationship over a humble cookfire. Let us illumine our lives using this prayer of confession.

Prayer of confession

O Lord our God, we know that your throne is surrounded by the voices of many angels and that you are worshiped by the multitudes of the heavenly host, but we so often fail to join in their “amen.” We do not fall down and worship you as we know we should. We are distracted by our catch, by our high priests, by our mourning, and our doubts. Show yourself to us anew and give us the faith to cast our nets in other waters. Strengthen us to worship you alone as the one on the throne and the Lamb slaughtered for all, even when we are in the depths of the pit.

Assurance of pardon (from Psalm 30)

The Lord’s anger is but for a moment. God’s favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer for illumination

In the reading and hearing of your Word, O God, remove the scales from our eyes that we may see your works and know your ways.





Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from The Confession of 1967, gendered language modified)

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for people when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to people, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

Call for the offering

Jesus invites us to bring what we have to the feast. With gratitude for God's provisions and assured of our place at Christ's table, we respond with generosity.

Prayer of dedication

God, you have filled our nets to bursting. Empower us to use these gifts for the sustenance of your creation, and to follow them where they go. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

God of death and life, crucifixion and resurrection, God of the pit and God of the heights, hear us and be gracious to us.

We pray for your creation – for every creature in heaven and on earth, every creature under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them. All the creatures of creation sing your praises, so we ask that you empower us to be their faithful stewards.

We pray for our most vulnerable neighbors. You called upon our ancestor Peter to care for your sheep three times – empower your church to be faithful stewards of this legacy to love you by caring for others. When we shrink from this call, bind us and lead us where we may not wish to go but know, deep down, that we must.

God of the lakeshore, you made yourself known to us around the cook-fire. Help us to make ourselves known around the table, where the astonishing bounty of the earth, so heavy we can hardly bring it to shore, is shared such that all have enough.

We make this prayer in the name of the resurrected Jesus, who blinded Saul, who empowered Ananias, who challenged Simon Peter, who sits upon the throne, and who taught us to pray together saying, **“Our Father ...”**





Charge and benediction

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to God's holy name.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit be with you, those you love, and for whom you pray, this day and forevermore. Amen.

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2025
Liturgy written by Andy Greenhow
and provided for free distribution.

For more resources,
visit pres-outlook.org

