



Order of Worship

Seventh Sunday of Easter

June 1, 2025

Call to worship (based on Psalm 97)

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice!

We tremble at God's awesome works!

The heavens proclaim God's righteousness!

The Lord is our guard and protector!

Light dawns and joy fills our hearts!

Rejoice in the Lord and give thanks!

Call to confession

We worry if we confess what rests heavily on our hearts, we will be judged and condemned.

Yet God desires we come close and open ourselves to the possibility of transformation and grace. When we confess our sin, we acknowledge God's love for us and Christ's prayer for us, opening ourselves to forgiveness and new life. Trusting in this love, let us confess our sins.

Prayer of confession

Merciful God, you desire that the world might see your light shine through us. Yet we confess we are often too blinded by the glittering temptations of this world. We turn from your way, hurting the very ones we were called to serve, in our action and our inaction. We grow frustrated with each other, seeking to silence anything besides our own desires. We fail to see your righteousness and champion greed and discord in the name of power and popularity. Forgive us. Melt us and mold us into more faithful disciples, seeking your light, reflecting your mercy, and sharing your grace. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Friends, who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ alone, prays for us. Christ reaches out with endless love and mercy. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made ready to love and serve. Alleluia. Amen.





Prayer for illumination

Holy God, we are thirsty for your good Word. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed, open our hearts to hear what you have to say to us. Fill us with the light of your love that, having heard, we will be ready to go live more faithfully and love more deeply. 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

We are called to be light to the world. Let us share our talents and treasures in grateful praise.

Prayer of dedication

Generous God, all that we are and all that we have comes from you. Take these gifts and these people and make them blessings for your people in this community and beyond. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

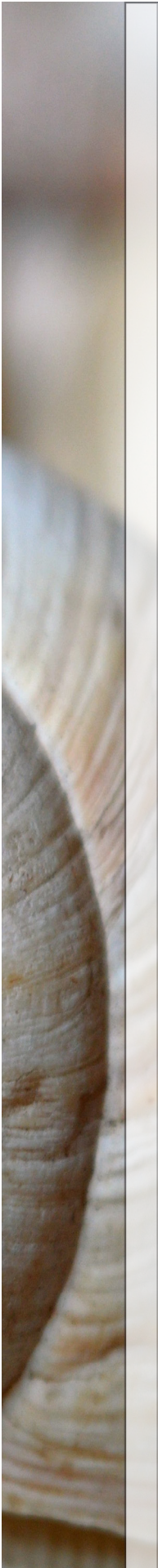
Let us pray for the needs of the world.

We pray for the church. Teach us to seek the unity we have in your Son while delighting in the diversity of your created world. Make us a light to the world, reflecting your love in our work and worship. Give courage to those who answer your call to serve near and far, our peacemakers, missionaries, and congregations everywhere. May we be a beacon of hope in a hurting world.

We pray for those who work and for those who long to work. Protect those whose work leads them into dangerous places and bring them home safely at the end of the day. Make our schools, stores, churches, and places of work safe and fair. May all people find their place in the fabric of community, finding places where their gifts are celebrated and used for the building up of the world. Give courage to those who struggle to make their pay stretch enough to feed and shelter their family and lead them to places of plenty.

We pray for those in places of power. Fill them with your wisdom and compassion that they may never lose sight of the humanity of those they lead. Where we lead, give us grace to recognize the king we proclaim





and courage to be a part of your kingdom even when it goes against our ways and the ways of the world. Give us an imagination to dream of a world united and the courage to make it so.

Holy God, shine your light in the corners of this world. Illumine the hope we have in you. And strengthen us to be bearers of your light for all the people of world. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying, **“Our Father ...”**

Charge and benediction

Go, walk bravely, and live into your calling.

Go, sing loudly, and tell the world of God’s love.

Go, shine brightly, and make visible the kingdom of God here and now.

May God’s grace rain upon you, may Jesus’s love enfold you, may the Spirit’s peace renew you for kingdom living, now and forever. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Rae Watson
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