



Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Pentecost
June 29, 2025

Call to worship

Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people."

Lord, help us follow where you lead.

Jesus said, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Lord, help us put you first and follow you.

Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also."

Lord, help us follow you that we may serve you.

The peace of Christ be with all of you.

And also with you. Let us worship God.

Call to confession (Hebrews 4:14, 16)

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer of confession

Eternal God, you claimed us as your own in our baptisms and called us to be your covenant people. We confess we do not live as people created in your image, nor do we lead lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called. Jesus still calls, "Follow me" and we offer excuses because we can't do that. Jesus calls us to new life in the Spirit, and we cling to our old habits and tired traditions. Gracious God, forgive our sins. Open our ears and hearts to hear Jesus's call and give us grace and strength to respond in faith and love. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of pardon (Titus 3:4-7)

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, God saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to God's mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.



This Spirit God poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by God's grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for illumination

Almighty God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed this day, may our hearts be enlightened and our spirits strengthened that we may be more faithful followers of Jesus, the Word made flesh. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from "A Declaration of Faith")

**We are certain that Jesus lives.
He lives as God with us,
touching all of human life with the presence of God.
He lives as one of us with God.
Because he shares our humanity
and has bound us to himself in love,
we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.
We declare that Jesus is Lord.
His resurrection is a decisive victory
over the powers that deform and destroy human life.
His lordship is hidden.
The world appears to be dominated by people and systems
that do not acknowledge his rule.
But his lordship is real.
It demands our loyalty and sets us free
from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.
We maintain that ultimate sovereignty
now belongs to Jesus Christ
in every sphere of life.
Jesus is Lord'
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.**

Call for the offering

When Jesus sent his disciples on their mission, he told them, "Freely. you have received, freely give." Surely the same applies to us as followers of Jesus today. We are who we are, and we have what we have because of God's grace freely given in Jesus Christ. With grateful hearts, let us present our tithes and offerings.

Prayer of dedication

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the undeserved blessings you give us. Most of all, we thank and praise you for your indescribable



gift of your Son Jesus Christ. Give us grateful hearts and willing lives so we may follow our Lord where he leads us and serve our Lord as he calls us. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Eternal God, we give you thanks, for you are good and your steadfast love endures forever. We bring the joys, cares and concerns of our lives and our world before you, assured by your Word that when we do not know how to pray as we ought, your Holy Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. Lord, hear our spoken and silent prayers.

In a world filled with hatred and violence, we pray for your peace that passes all understanding. Fill the minds of this world's leaders with your wisdom and their hearts with your love, that all people may be able to live lives of dignity in freedom.

In this time of uncertainty and fear for so many, surround us with your perfect love that casts out fear. As followers of Jesus Christ, may we be unafraid to share your good news and love. Help us resist the powers that seek to oppress, deny and exclude people.

We pray for the calming, healing presence of your Holy Spirit in the lives of those who are sick, who face surgeries and treatments, and who have entered their final days. For their caregivers, we pray for peace, patience and perspective.

In situations that seem hopeless, we pray for the hope that only you can give in Jesus Christ. May our lives and actions shine forth with the hope we have so that others may find encouragement.

O God of gods and Lord of lords, we give you thanks, for you are good and your steadfast love endures forever.

We offer these and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray, **"Our Father..."**

Charge and benediction (2 Thessalonians 3:16 & Philippians 4:23)

Now may the Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in all ways. The Lord be with all of you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Philip K. Gladden
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