

Order of worship

10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2020

Call to worship (*Psalms 105:1-6*)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to the Lord; tell of all God's wonderful works.

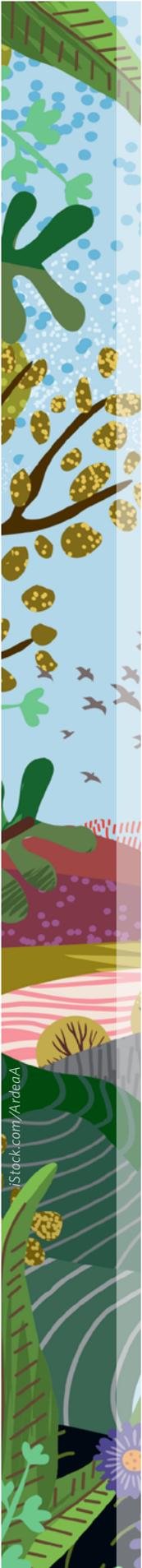
Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and God's strength; seek God's presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works the Lord has done, God's miracles, and the judgments the Lord uttered, O offspring of God's servant Abraham, children of Jacob, the Lord's chosen ones.

Call to confession

God calls us to do good, care for one another and follow God's life-giving commandments. We fall short of who we are called to be, hurting those we are to love and worshipping idols that never offer what they promise. Nonetheless, God is merciful and abounding in steadfast love. Therefore, we humbly, honestly, bravely confess our sin to God, in the company of each other, confident that God's forgives and frees us.



Prayer of confession

Lord of wind and waves, creation and creatures, your power is at work everywhere, stilling the storms, offering peace, lifting us up from the depths of our greatest fears. You come to us immediately when we call and yet we still lack faith in your ability and will to work within and around us. We get distracted and afraid, focused on that which threatens us rather than the One who saves us. We act out of a sense of scarcity, as if there is not enough of God's love, grace and abundant goodness for everyone. In our anxiousness we hurt those entrusted to our care, we injure the earth we are to steward and we fail to tend your sheep. Forgive our failings and mistakes and in your mercy reform us into the people you call us to be, those blessed to be a blessing. Amen.

Assurance of pardon *(Romans 10:13)*

Scripture tells us that those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved, that no one who believes in Jesus will be put to shame. Trusting this sure promise, we rejoice that God hears our confession and forgives us. Friends, believe the good news, in Christ you are a new creation, the old has passed away and a new life has begun.

Prayer for illumination

How beautiful are the feet that bring good news. We are eager, Lord, to hear your good news, to listen to the gospel proclaimed and be changed. Open us to the leadings of your Holy Spirit that we might hear, believe and share your saving Word. Amen.

Scripture readings

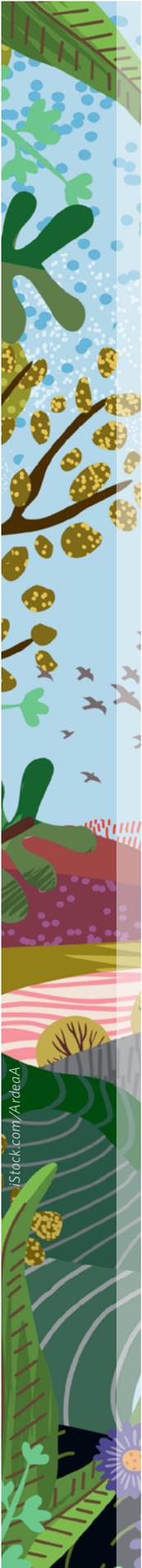
Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(The 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.

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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 gives us that which is good, the gift of community, the gift of creation, the gift of new life in Christ. We can in no way repay God for all God's goodness toward us, but we can respond with gratitude, giving joyfully a portion of what God's entrusts to our care. In thanksgiving, let us worship God with our morning's offering.

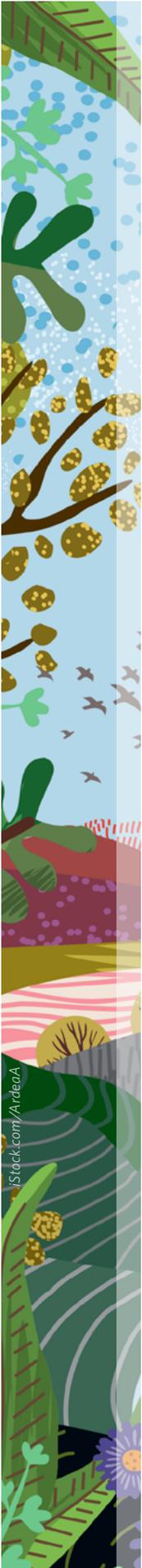
Prayer of dedication

Gracious God, we offer to you not only these monetary gifts, but our whole selves, our hearts, minds, hopes and fears. We give them freely and in the knowledge that we can never earn your grace. You come to us even before we turn to you. You pursue us with your steadfast love. You refuse to give up on us even when we have gone astray. Bless these gifts we pray, signs of our gratitude, and use them to proclaim the good news to those yet to hear it and know of their priceless worth in your eyes. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Lord God, as we navigate strong headwinds and seek to see you through our fatigue and fears, we confess that you are truly the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the one who stills the storm and immediately reaches out your hand to keep us from drowning. We rest for a moment in the joy of your presence, no longer afraid, free from anxiety, assured that you do not leave us alone, but seek us out when we are most in need of your peace.

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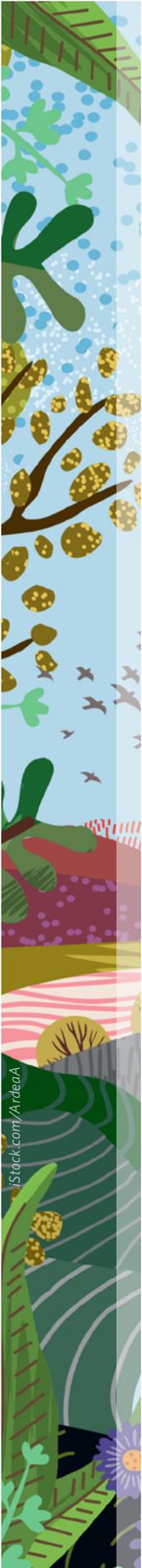
We know, Lord of all, that none of our thoughts and hopes, our doubts or worries are off limits to your care and compassion. We know you, our teacher and our friend, welcome us as we are and hear whatever is on our hearts and minds. We ask you to hear our prayers for those in our midst most battered by the storms of our time.

Grab the hands of those about to go under the waves of poverty or financial crisis. We ask for your intervention on behalf of families unable to provide basic necessities for their children, our siblings wrestling with food insecurity, those on the cusp of eviction and the unemployed facing the end of benefits. As we see those about to be swamped by the waves of this pandemic, move us to act in ways that lift others out of the roiling sea.

Reach out and give courage and strength to people in leadership positions. Grant them wisdom to make decisions in the best interests of the most vulnerable. Inspire communities to use their power and resources, their will and gifts, to support the people on the margins, those for whom this difficult season has been catastrophic. We pray for teachers, administrators, parents and students as they all seek to navigate a new school year rife with uncertainty and unprecedented challenges. We are mindful of essential workers, who are facing the danger of this public health crisis every day. Protect and sustain them, Lord. We lift up the sick and all those who suffer. Give them hope, bring relief, surround them with your mercy.

Quiet the dangerous winds of discord and division and stir up the breath of the Holy Spirit to heal and unite us. Help us to build up the body, strengthen our witness and reveal to the world that we follow the One who commands us to love one another. May others look at your church and see your hands and feet at work in the world feeding and tending, forgiving and repairing, doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God.

In this moment, Lord God, we rest in your presence, certain that you are our Savior and the Savior of the world, able to do abundantly more than we can ever hope or imagine, never far from us, always reaching out your hand to save us when we fear the wind and waves of life will overtake us. We worship and praise you as we pray the prayer you taught us, saying, *Our father ...*



Charge and benediction (1 Peter 3:8-9)

All of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart and a humble mind.

Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.

It is for this that you were called — that you might inherit a blessing.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution.

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