



Order of Worship

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

Call to worship

Great is the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Call to confession

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Let us confess our sin before God and one another, trusting in God's gracious promise of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Prayer of confession

Eternal God, your Word teaches us that whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. Forgive us for forgetting your gracious promise of life. We live in fear, thinking death has the final say. We follow our own ways rather than your life-giving path in Jesus Christ. Help us put our trust in you, our God who has the power of life over death. We believe, Lord; help our unbelief. In the name of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead never to die again, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

The scriptures teach: "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

We confess that Jesus is Lord and we believe and celebrate the good news that God raised him from the dead.

Trust in this promise: In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!





Prayer for illumination

Almighty God, we know that all Scripture is inspired by you and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to you may be proficient, equipped for every good work. As we hear the good news this Easter season, may we come to believe more and more that Jesus is the Messiah, your Son and that through believing we may have life in his name. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (Philippians 2:5-11)

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Call for the offering

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. With glad and generous hearts, let us present our tithes and offerings.

Prayer of dedication

Gracious and loving God, we bring our tithes and offerings to you in celebration and thanksgiving for the good news of Easter. Give us your wisdom and grace to use what you have given us for ministries of love and compassion that will share the love of Jesus Christ. Accept what we give in response to what you have so freely given to us, your indescribable gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Eternal and life-giving God, we thank you that you are our only comfort in life and in death. We come before you today as people with grateful





hearts, thankful for your loving kindness, your trustworthy promises, and your never-failing grace and love for us in Jesus Christ. Lord, hear our prayers.

Loving God, our world is full of death and dying. We are tempted to believe that death has the final word. Help us remember, celebrate and embrace the Easter message of life everlasting, not just as hope for the future but as strength, power and motivation for living today. May we believe and show in all we do that nothing in all creation, not even death, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Here the worship leader can add prayer concerns and joys particular to the worshipping community.]

God of grace and God of glory, your Word is full of testimonies to your live-giving power and purpose. We thank you for believers who have shared their experiences of your grace and life that we may come to believe. Lord, help us live as faithful followers of our risen Lord. May all that we do point to the source of our life and hope, Jesus Christ, who was dead but lives again by the power of the Holy Spirit.

And now, as your beloved children, we are bold to pray together, **“Our Father...”**.

Charge and benediction

Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed!

Thanks be to God
who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Therefore, my beloved,
be steadfast, immovable,
always excelling in the work of the Lord,
because you know that in the Lord
your labor is not in vain.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.

Amen.

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Liturgy written by Philip K. Gladden
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