



# Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

**July 3, 2022**

## **Call to worship** *(adapted from Psalm*

30) O Lord, my God,  
you have drawn me up,  
**you have healed me.**

You have turned my mourning into dancing,  
**you have taken off my sackcloth,**  
**you have clothed me with joy.**

May my soul praise you and not be silent  
**I will give thanks to you forever!**

## **Call to confession** *(adapted from 2 Kings 5)*

Sometimes God gives us the simplest of instructions;  
yet they don't seem worthy of our time or commitment.  
Knowing that we digress and acknowledging that we  
transgress, let us confess our sins together at this time  
with our prayer of confession.

## **Prayer of confession**

O Lord, we extol you once more. We cry for your help. For  
we have not followed your will. We have not helped bear  
one another's burdens. We have not been your faithful  
laborers going out into your harvest. We have fallen into  
the pit of self-deception and self-reliance again.  
We ask that you draw us up and draw us more into your  
pervasive presence. By your favor we confess and through  
your abundant mercy we make our supplication. Hear and  
be gracious to us! Cleanse our souls so that we may praise  
you in fullness once more.



**Assurance of pardon** *(From Galatians 6 & 2 Kings 5)*

My friends, even though we have been detected in transgression, the Spirit seeks to restore us in a spirit of gentleness. Anyone who has washed is made clean and anyone who has asked is pardoned! In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and restored!

**Prayer for illumination**

Establishing and equipping God, where you say “go” may we go. When you say “restore” may we work towards your restoration. And in what you describe as “joy” may we live into and out of as we hear your Word speaking to us once again on this day. We love you, Lord. Amen.

**Affirmation of faith** *(From The Confession of 1967)*

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 all of us when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to us, moves us to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of what we are. We therefore accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.

The new life does not release a us from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, fear. We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our life with Christ, we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.



### **Call for the offering** *(From Psalm 30)*

The psalmist writes, “You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give ...”

May we gifts today be given in that spirit!

### **Prayer of dedication** *(From Psalm 30 & Luke 10)*

O Lord, our God, you have called us into the bountiful fields of this world, may we go and fulfill your harvest.

O Lord, our God, you have established us as strong mountains, may we stand for your glory and justice in this world.

O Lord, my God, you have given us so much; please accept these our responses with our gratitude. Amen.

### **Prayers of the people and the Lord’s Prayer**

We extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn us up, you rejoice with us, and you alone heal our souls. We celebrate and praise your name for you are the one who meets us and greets us and challenges us and loves us with passion and strength. By your favor, you have established us as your people, and you have chosen to steadfast by our side.

God, hear our thanks. We thank you for this day. We thank you for this time to gather. We thank you for this place and these people and your church. We thank you for your undeserved and unearned gifts of grace and peace and mercy. Help us to receive all that you give us with the posture of gratitude and allow that to shape us as we continue to live and move in this your world.

God, hear our cries. We cry out for those who feel they are the least — either because others have made them feel that way or because they have lost their notion of being your beloved. We cry out for the last — those who have a hard time finishing because of their circumstances or those who are pushed to the end of the line by this world. We cry out for those who are lost — either lost in cycles of

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addition, violence, systems or lost in the never-ending rat race of this world. We pray for these people in our midst and these people in our communities.

For those who have suffered loss, bring your peace. For those who are sick, bring relief. For those who are unknowingly suffering from unchecked pride, give them humility. For those who need your presence, allow us to share glimpses of you with them this week. For all these people and more, we pray. And now hear us as we boldly pray that great prayer of trust that you taught us, “**Our Father ...**”.

**Charge and benediction** *(From Psalm 30 & Luke 10)*

The Lord has heard.

The Lord is our helper.

The Lord now sends us back into the fields with the assurance that the harvest is plentiful.

So go.

Go out.

Go forth with the grace and peace of God our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer now and forevermore. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Brian Christopher Coulter and provided for free distribution.

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