



Order of Worship

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 3, 2023

Call to worship

We gather hoping to see God,
here in worship, we realize that we see God in one another.
We can see God
when we show one another honor,
when we pursue hospitality to strangers,
when we live in harmony with one another,
when we rejoice in hope.
Let us worship the visible God amongst us.

Call to confession

God wants us to be ourselves. But every time we hurt one another, or ourselves, we get further and further away from who we are. It is in our confession, in admitting the truth of our lives, that we can be our genuine selves again. Let us join in our prayer of confession together:

Prayer of confession

God of love,
 you ask us to love one another from the center of who we are,
 you tell us to bless one another,
 you encourage us to do good.
But we have not listened to your words,
instead of loving we have practiced hatred,
 instead of blessing, we have perfected cursing,
 instead of doing good, we have sought to get even.
Forgive us for giving up.
Give us grace to try again,
 and encouragement to make your ways, our ways.
We pray, we wait, and we hope. Amen.



Assurance of pardon

God's love for us is genuine. When we need it the most, God's grace washes over us seeping into the cracks of our brokenness and saturating our thirsty hearts. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Prayer for illumination

O Holy Creator, you spoke all of creation into being, we ask that you keep speaking to us now. Speak to us as we read Scripture, that we might hear your voice ringing clear and concise through the many voices around us. Speak to us, that we might hear and understand. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Call for the offering

Why do we give each week?
We give because we have received so much from God.
We give to practice the gratitude for all that God has done for us.
We give because we trust that God can do more with what we have than we can do alone.
So let us practice our gratitude this morning through the giving of our gifts.

Prayer of dedication

Gift-giving God, we bring you what we can offer,



our time, our talents, our finances, our very selves,
in the hope that what we bring, you might magnify, and multiply, for the
work of your love in the world. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

You are the first, the last, the everything in between,
we lift our praise and our prayers up to you,
because we know that you have been listening since the first voice in the
garden, and we trust that you listen still.

hallowed be thy name,

Yours is the name that is above every name,
yours is the name spoken in all languages,
yours is the name that echoes across all time and space.

thy kingdom come,

May all of creation look more and more like your heavenly kingdom,
a place of peace,
a place of love,
a place everyone feels at home.

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Here in this place may love be genuine,
may hospitality be given to strangers,
may we overcome evil with good,
and may we live peaceably with each other.

Give us this day our daily bread

Allow us to taste and see, drink and remember, the goodness you have
given us.
Allow us to trust rather than hoard
so that no one goes hungry, and no one thirsts.

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

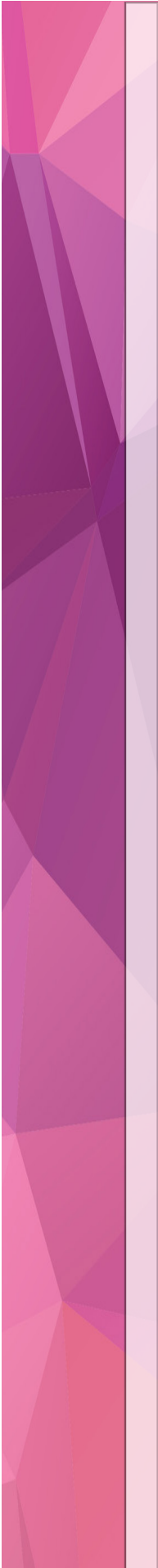
Give us as many chances as it takes to get it right,
and may we give others just as many chances
as you have given us.

And lead us not into temptation,

Guide us to stay on your good path,
even when it seems easier to curse than to bless,
more satisfying to seek vengeance than to build peace.

but deliver us from evil.





Because we know evil has many forms.
It shows up in test results as cancer;
it startles us in harsh words and policies;
it arrives at our door as violence;
and it bubbles up inside us as self-destruction.
However and whenever evil shows up, rescue us from it time and time
again.

For thine is the kingdom,

Where we hope to live with you,

and the power,

That you showed us by taking on weakness,

and the glory,

That we hope to reflect with our lives out into the world,

forever

And ever.

Amen.

Charge and benediction

Remember, as our time of worship draws to a close and our lives of service begin anew, go out into the world in peace. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, love everyone. That God's light and love, justice and joy, might be for you and all people everywhere. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Molly Spangler and provided for
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