

# Order of Worship

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 19, 2023

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## Call to worship

Lord, you have been our dwelling place;

**we come today to rest in you.**

You have been the voice that guides us;

**we come today to listen.**

You have been the host who feeds us;

**we come today to be filled.**

You have been our joy and crown;

**we come today to sing your praise!**

## Call to confession

We know that our sins are too heavy for us to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. But we also know that you can lift that weight from us and transform our lives. So we lift our prayer of confession to you:

## Prayer of confession

**Merciful God, we confess that once again,  
we have done what is evil in your sight.**

**We've made mistakes.**

**We've made missteps.**

**We have hurt people,  
by action and inaction.**

**We have wounded creation,  
by action and inaction.**

**We have chosen our ways over yours,  
by action and inaction.**

**And if the sum total of what we have done  
and what we have not done  
adds up to evil in your sight,  
then in your sight we ask you  
to turn us towards goodness.**

**Forgive our past, and shape our future  
that we might build your kingdom here.**

**In the strong name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**



## Assurance of pardon

Hear the good news! Who is our God?

**Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

**We are forgiven, rescued and redeemed. Alleluia! Amen.**

## Prayer for illumination

Holy Spirit, your wisdom guides us deep into the mystery of your truth. Speak to us today, that we might understand your will and walk in your ways. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

## Scripture readings

### Sermon

### Affirmation of faith (adapted from the Confession of 1967)

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of our life.

**It is the will of God that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from creation.**

Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

**With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world.**

It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.

**In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.**

### Call for the offering

When we give, we combat the lie that we do not matter in this world. So as we enter a time of giving, I invite you to reflect on how your life, your skills, your time, and your money matters to this congregation and to God's mission in the world.

### Prayer of dedication

**Generous God, with Thanksgiving quickly approaching, we are reminded to give you thanks for the ministries of this congregation**



**which you have entrusted us with.  
We are honored by the opportunity  
to be your holy body here.  
Bless these offerings, however they are given  
that our efforts may be ever more worthy of your name. Amen.**

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

Now, as children of our heavenly creator,  
let us bring our prayers to God.

We pray with gratitude for the environment,  
for the sun that shines and rain that falls.  
Give us grace to show love to creation,  
not harvesting right up to the edge  
but leaving enough for the earth to renew itself.

We pray with gratitude for the church,  
for your holy community, made to love as you do.  
Give us grace to take you seriously,  
and ourselves less so,  
making our faith communities places of radical welcome.

We pray with gratitude for our country,  
for the rights, freedoms and services we enjoy.  
Give us grace to work to make this nation  
like your holy kingdom:  
a place that turns to peaceful resistance  
and not revenge  
that makes sure there is enough  
for the poor and immigrant  
that treats all equally  
regardless of wealth or status.

We pray with gratitude for our communities:  
for schools, hospitals, libraries, grocery stores, mechanic shops,  
that we live in a place where we can get what we need,  
and often, what we only want.  
Give us grace to build up our community,  
to give back with our time, talent and treasure.  
To love our neighbors in real, concrete ways.

We pray with gratitude for those closest to us —  
friends, family, all we know best and love dearly.  
Give us grace to care for them  
and to receive their care.

We pray especially this day for:

*[prayers of the congregation may be spoken]*

And finally, we pray for ourselves,  
grateful that you have loved us from the first,  
guided us in your own ways,  
and forgiven us continually when we fall short.



Give us grace for the week ahead,  
that we might turn away from hatred and anger  
and every kind of everyday carelessness,  
and turn our hearts entirely to you.

And now we pray as Jesus taught, saying: **“Our Father ...”**

### **Charge and benediction**

Friends, go in peace, and be peace.  
Go in hope, and be hope.  
Go in faith, and be faithful.

And as you go, may the grace of God cover you,  
the love of Christ shine within you,  
and the Spirit’s courage propel you forward,  
this day and forevermore. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett and  
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