

# Order of Worship

15th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 1, 2024

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## Call to worship

Arise, my love, my fair one and come away.

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,**

For now the winter is past; the flowers appear on the earth.

**Sun, moon and stars in their courses above**

The time of singing has come; the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

**Join with all nature in manifold witness**

Arise, my love, my fair one and come away.

**To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Let us worship God!**

## Call to confession

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting; God's grace never changes. Therefore, we come together to confess our sin, trusting that in Christ, we have already been forgiven:

## Prayer of confession

**Merciful God, we confess that our words and actions do not always line up. We are quick to confess our faith, but slow to live it. We sing praise to your name, but we pass by orphans and widows on the other side of the street. Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us. Root out the selfishness that hardens our hearts, and replace it with compassion and generosity. Empower us by your Spirit that we might be doers of your word and not hearers only. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.**

## Assurance of pardon (sung, "Great is Thy Faithfulness," GtG #39)

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!



## Prayer for illumination

Gracious God, we see as in a mirror dimly. Your Spirit offers clarity, wisdom and understanding. Open our eyes, that these many words of Scripture may bear witness to your true Word: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Scripture readings

## Sermon

## Affirmation of faith (from the Barmen Declaration)

**As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to God's Creatures.**

**We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords – areas in which we would not need justification or sanctification through him.**

## Call for the offering

James writes, "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." Since God is the source of all generosity, let us generously return our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

## Prayer of dedication

Generous God, we return to you these gifts, not only of our resources, but also of our lives. Sanctify us and use us to work out your purposes in the world. Amen.

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

God of all compassion, in Jesus Christ you have laid claim to our entire selves and shown us that nothing is too grand or insignificant for your mercy to touch. Therefore, we are bold enough to lift our prayers to you this morning.

We give you thanks for the goodness that overflows in our lives. For sunsets and tree frogs. For family, friends, and loved ones around us. For little ones and not-so-little ones returning to school. For potlucks and T-ball games. For the sweetness of the last watermelon of the season.

We ask for your healing and grace for those places that are broken, in the world and in our lives. For nations plagued by warfare and souls plagued by shame. For people without food and people without friendship. For your loved ones in hospitals, domestic violence shelters and refugee camps.

Purify our religion, O God, that it might bear fruit in the world. Send forth your church that we might care for all people in distress. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, the one who taught us to pray say-



ing, “Our Father...”

### Charge and benediction

Now, friends, God sends us out.  
May we who have heard the Word in this place  
go forth to live that gospel in the world.  
May we go to feed and clothe and tend and pray,  
to speak God’s love to those who have forgotten it.  
May we offer our whole selves to God,  
and to one another.

And may the grace of Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the friendship of the Holy Spirit,  
accompany us along our way,  
now and forever. Amen.

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Liturgy written by Ginna Bairby and provided for  
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