



## Order of service

7th Sunday of Easter

**May 24, 2020**

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### **Call to worship** (*Psalm 68:32-35*)

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, God sends out God's voice, the Lord's mighty voice.

Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.

Awesome is God in the sanctuary, the God of Israel; the Lord gives power and strength to God's people. Blessed be God!

### **Call to confession**

God, we humble ourselves before you. The burden of our sin is too heavy to carry and too big to hide. We rejoice in your promise of mercy and forgiveness. Hear us as we name that which we no longer want to have dominion over us. Hear us and set us free.

### **Prayer of confession**

Lord, you pray that your followers will be one as you and your Father are one, and yet we divide into factions, demonize those with whom we disagree and fail to show the world we are yours through our love of one another. We are to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth, revealing your mercy and enacting your compassion. Instead we keep silent when we should speak and speak when we ought to remain silent. Forgive us for our failure to take risks for your sake. Grant us your grace and embolden us to share it, forgiving others as we have been forgiven. (*Silent prayer*)  
Amen.

### **Assurance of pardon** (*1 Peter 5:10*)

Friends, Christ himself restores, supports, strengthens and establishes us. Believe the good news, through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.



### **Prayer for illumination**

God, we cast our anxieties on you, knowing that you care for us. Send your Spirit to open our hearts, settle our minds and grant us discernment. May your living Word come alive in us. Amen.

### **Scripture readings**

### **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of faith** *(The Apostles' Creed)*

I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Call for the offering**

What could we return to God for the gift of eternal life? What can we render to the Lord for the gift of salvation? What would be pleasing to our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer? We offer nothing less than ourselves even as we return to God a portion of what God has entrusted to us. Freely we have received, freely let us give.





### **Prayer of dedication**

Gracious God, often our anxieties and fear overwhelm our desire to trust you. We give in to worry and suppress the Spirit's urging to be generous and open-hearted. But this morning, in faith, we offer you these resources, knowing you will take them, bless them, multiply them and use them to meet the world's needs. May this offering help ease the pain of those wondering if there really is enough for everyone. We thank you for the ability to participate in your life-giving work. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

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

Loving God, knowing that Christ prays for us, we join our hearts and voices in his prayers for the world. We come before you seeking to ask the right questions, discern your answers and do your will. We cast our anxieties on you, knowing you care for us.

Merciful God, knowing that our ways are not your ways, we humble ourselves and ask for your guidance. As we struggle with how to navigate these turbulent and frightening times, we pray that you would help us to make choices that glorify you and demonstrate our love for our neighbors. Help us to look to the interest of others as we begin to venture from our homes again. Do not let us be a stumbling block to the well-being of the vulnerable and weaker among us.

Gracious God, knowing that you refuse to leave us alone, that you run out to meet us when we make the slightest turn toward you, that you rejoice whenever a lost one is found, we pray for those in greatest need of your strength and courage. Comfort those who mourn. Bind up the brokenhearted. Feed the hungry. Set the captives free. Enliven us with the Spirit so that we may be the light and salt we are called to be in your world.

Almighty God, knowing that you can do abundantly more than we can ever hope or imagine, we are bold to ask you to for the desires of our hearts. You know our deepest needs before we even name them. You send your Son that we might have abundant life and our joy might be complete. Resting in your promises, we set aside our worry and open our mouths in praise. Help us to give thanks in all circumstances, confidence that you hold us in the palm of your hand and will never let us go.

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Generous God, knowing that there is no end to your goodness, we pray to do your will, no matter where it takes us or what it requires of us. You give us the power of the Holy Spirit to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Free us from whatever prevents us from being welcoming, generous and loving. Make us one in our service to our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray, *Our Father...*

**Charge and benediction** (*Romans 15:5-6*)

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage! Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution.

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