

An Order of Worship
April 16, 2023
Mark 1:14-20

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus called out, "Follow Me."

People: And first disciples began the journey with Jesus.

Leader: They followed Jesus to the Cross,

People: And witnessed the glorious resurrection.

Leader: Jesus calls us to join the journey.

People: We follow Jesus to the cross,

Leader: And we have experienced the resurrection. So once again, we cry out,

People: Alleluia, Jesus Christ is risen!

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captives. Help us to rejoice in your presence and to offer our prayers and service, praise and caring, that you bestow on all who open their hands and hearts to you and to your presence, in our brothers and sisters. Lord, we worship you and thank you for your saving love and your guiding light.
Amen

Call to Confession

Christ is risen, yet we often act as if he is still in the tomb. Let us confess all that turns us toward death, so we can know the grace of new life through Christ.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord, when the disciples left the fishing boats to follow you, they knew nothing of your death and resurrection. But we who have experienced the Good News of Easter should be all the more willing to follow you. Still, we fall short. Too often we leave the Easter service just to return to our daily lives, forgetting to follow you by serving others. Forgive us, and once again restore in us the joy of your Salvation that was assured to us by your resurrection.

Assurance of pardon

From the Gospel of John we hear, Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Know that you are forgiven and receive Christ's peace. Alleluia and Amen!

Prayers of the People

Let us pray to God concerning those things which hold onto us and those things we hold onto the habits of our life -

the loyalties which guide our actions

the standards which we do not question

Let us pray that we might love God more than we love these things

Lord hear our prayer...

Thank you, Father, for this time we have spent here contemplating the Good News of Jesus Christ and the love that he has for us - the love that he displayed upon the cross. We pray that it may be real in our hearts as we live this week together. Let it do its great work of cutting down and eliminating from our lives those things over which we take pride and which separate us from others; those distinctions that make us dislike our brother or sister and turn our backs on them. Help us, dear God, to judge these things in the light of the cross and, by its light, and the light of your living word. to walk before you all our days.

Lord, hear our prayer...

Father - make us what Jesus calls us to be - make us people who care deeply about other people - who care so much that we are not afraid to show them your love - so much that we are eager to bring them to you so that they may know the blessing of a closer walk with you

Lord, hear our prayer...

Father, hear our prayers for those we know who need your special care this day. We especially remember:

-- the children who are victims of war and oppression

the homeless and the poor of our nation

(Add additional petitions.)

Lord, hear our prayer....

We pray too for those individuals named during our sharing time and those who are upon our hearts now

Lord, hear our prayer...

These things we ask in the name of our crucified and risen Savior – Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Call for the Offering

Christ is risen! Hallelujah! Let us gratefully give of our offerings in praise of Christ's ministry through us and for us.

Prayer of dedication

Risen and redeeming God, you have given us more than we could ever give you in return. You are gracious and generous in your love. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. Amen.

Benediction

We have been called, and we have followed. We remembered the death, and shouted Alleluia. But the journey is not over. Go out into the world filled with the Spirit of the Resurrected Lord, and serve the Lord with joyful and glad hearts.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Prayer, Call for the offering, and Prayer of Dedication, from Presbyterian Outlook

*Prayers of the people, Richard J Fairchild, SERMONS & SERMON –
LECTIONARY RESOURCES*