



Sunday, September 7, 2025

Welcome & Opening Declaration

We have gathered in the name of Jesus Christ.

We have set aside this time to worship God together.

We have come to confess that Jesus is Lord.

We are here to tend to God's presence in and among us.

We praise and adore the living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen

SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 18: 1-14

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures^[e] of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?" The LORD said to Abraham,

“Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

EPHESIANS 2:13-22

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

SING TOGETHER

Psalm 23 - A Responsive Reading

The Lord, Our Shepherd and Host

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd;

All: I shall not want.

Leader: He makes me lie down in green pastures;

All: He leads me beside still waters.

Leader: He restores my soul;

All: He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Leader: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;

All: Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

All: You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

All: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Doxology

All you who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
Sing his praises, alleluia!
You who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Let all things their creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessing of the Children

SCRIPTURE

DEUTERONOMY 10:17-19 (NRSVUE)

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of Lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

HOMILY

TIME OF RESPONSE

APOSTLES' CREED

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Officiant: Let us pray.

Heart, Community, and the World

[Heart]

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whose name we were baptized and made your own beloved children, soften our hearts that we may live fully into our baptismal calling. As you have claimed us through the waters of new birth and sealed us with your Spirit, remove from us all hardness, fear, and self-seeking that prevents us from embracing our identity as yours. You have invited us into the fullness of life. Transform our inward being, that remembering our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection, we may go forth to baptize others in the name of the Trinity, making disciples who know themselves first and foremost as beloved. Grant that our witness may flow from our hearts renewed by the waters of grace, made tender by your mercy and kindness, and that all of our words spring from the deep well of our baptismal identity as your sons and daughters. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

[Community] Almighty God, who calls us together as one people from every tribe and tongue and nation, unite us in love that the world may know you as the one who brings beauty from ashes. As Christ promised to be with us always, make us a beloved community that embraces differences, so transformed by your presence that our life together becomes a powerful testimony to your kingdom. Through radical hospitality, break down the walls that divide us, heal the wounds that separate us, and grow among us bonds of love stronger than any human boundary. Grant that through our life together—sharing all things in common, bearing one another's burdens, and celebrating joy and sorrow as one body—we may invite all people to the immense love that has changed us. We pray that this would be true in all our Table Communities; Make our tables a picture of your reconciling power, that the nations may come to know the God who makes all things new. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who gathers us into your eternal dance of love. Amen.

[World]

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed liberty to the captives and freedom for the oppressed, empower us by your Spirit to take your healing

beyond the walls of this church building. As you have given Christ all authority in heaven and on earth, give your global church power to break every system that binds your people in poverty, racism, violence, and despair. LORD defend the powerless in Gaza, protect the orphan and widow in our city, and make us playful prophets, priests, kings and queens to the world who do not merely give lip service to your kingdom, but who sing and march to dismantle injustice today. Grant us courage and creativity in our collective presence to challenge unjust powers, wisdom to build equitable communities, and persistence to work for the healing of nations. Transform our understanding of discipleship, that we may teach all peoples not only your commandments of love, but how to live full lives as citizens of your reign of justice and mercy. Use us as instruments of your peace, that the good news we proclaim may be accompanied by bearing good fruit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promises to be with us in every struggle for righteousness, even to the end of the age. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

The Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

All honor and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness. Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

In sharing this meal together, we share in the mystery of our faith..

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

SING TOGETHER

BENEDICTION

THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE TABLE PHILADELPHIA
Give to The Table Philadelphia - <https://thetablephilly.org/give>