



Sunday, September 21, 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

ISAIAH 61: 1-4

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me

because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives

and release to the prisoners,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

and the day of vengeance of our God,

to comfort all who mourn,

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins;

they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations.

LUKE 4:14-30

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in

Sidon. There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SING TOGETHER

Psalm 72 - A Responsive Reading

A Prayer for Justice and Righteousness

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

All: May he judge with righteousness and justice.

Leader: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

All: May he defend the poor and crush oppression.

Leader: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

All: Like rain that refreshes the earth.

Leader: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

All: May his dominion reach to all the earth.

Leader: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

All: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

Leader: From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

All: Long may he live! May gold of Sheba be given to him. May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all day long.

Leader: May there be abundance of grain in the land; may it wave on the tops of the mountains; may its fruit be like Lebanon.

All: May people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field.

Leader: May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun.

All: May all nations be blessed in him; may they pronounce him happy.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

All: Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and 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

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11 (NRSVUE)

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

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] Eternal God, who raised your Son Jesus Christ to life from the dead and revealed him to the apostles and to the five hundred witnesses: Open our hearts, that we may see you—the risen Lord—whom the world rejects. As you granted to Paul a vision of Christ Jesus our Lord, so illuminate our sight, that we may see his goodness and glory in each other to know more of the beauty of resurrection life. Give us grace to walk with eyes of faith today, not being ruled by fear, trusting in him who appeared even to the persecutor of the church, and who shows himself to be faithful to all who seek him with open hearts. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

[community] Gracious God, who revealed your risen Son not to one alone, but to Cephas, then to the twelve, and to more than five hundred brethren at once: Unite us as one body in Christ, that together we may witness to your resurrection power and receive this gospel which we cannot fully grasp in isolation. As you built your Church through the fellowship of those who had seen the Lord, so knit our hearts together in common faith, that in our shared life we may know more fully the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love. We pray for the PAX center that it may gather many into this love. Grant that what we have received from those who went before, we may faithfully deliver to those who come after, being bound together as living stones in a holy temple. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who gathers his people from every nation and tongue, and who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, world without end. Amen.

[world] Almighty God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and seated him at your right hand above every rule and authority, power and dominion in heaven and on earth: By the might of his resurrection, subdue and vanquish all evil that stands against your kingdom, and establish his reign over every square inch of creation. As the gospel you delivered has power to save all who believe, so let the victory of the risen Christ break every chain of oppression, heal every wound of injustice, and bring hope to the darkest places of our

world. Grant that we who proclaim his death until he comes may be faithful witnesses to his triumph over sin, death, and the fear that separates us from your love. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who conquered the grave and lives to intercede for us, and who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. 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
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