



Sunday, May 17, 2026

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

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-25

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him. ²As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. ³But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. ⁴Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the LORD— be exultant before him. ⁵Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. ⁶God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land. ⁷O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, (*Selah*) ⁸the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. ⁹Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; ¹⁰your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the LORD, (*Selah*)

³³O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. ³⁴Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies. ³⁵Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

John 17: 1-11

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. ⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: The Word of the LORD

All: Thanks be to God

SING TOGETHER

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Blessing of the Children

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:6-14

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Leader: The Word of the LORD

All: Thanks be to God

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.

Gracious God, whose ascended Son left disappeared from sight: we confess that waiting is hard for us — that the space between promise and fulfillment often feels less like holy anticipation and more like absence, less like preparation and more like loss. Turn our restless hearts toward the work of prayer, that in the aching in-between, where your kingdom has not yet come in fullness and our hands do not yet know what to do, we might be transformed from spectators into witnesses and worshippers — not by our own resolve or readiness, but by the same Holy Spirit you promised and kept. Keep us, O God, in the upper room of our longing, until you make of our waiting a dwelling place, and of our gathered uncertainty a people prepared for a kind of power we could not have manufactured on our own; through Jesus Christ, who goes before us even now. **Amen.**

Gracious Son, the one who gathered your people: we give you thanks that you have woven us together, not requiring wholeness, or demanding perfection, but you have made your home with us. Teach us to receive one another as the gift you meant us to be — to see in the face across the room not a stranger or a complication but strands in the fabric of grace, someone else for whom you also pray and contend, someone else who is also learning the slow and humbling grammar of hope. In our waiting, make us wide and expansive. In our longing for your return, make us lavish in welcome, so that the upper room of our common life might grow large enough to hold all you have called us to hold; for you are the one in whom all things hold together, and it is to your glory that we carry the weight together. **Amen.**

Gracious Spirit, promised before the cloud closed and the silence settled: open our eyes. Give us the seeing that is deeper than sight and a wisdom that is foolishness to the world, even in the ordinary hours of our ordinary days, the slow unfolding of your kingdom does not announce itself with fanfare but arrives in slowness, silence, and the gradual rewriting of our life together. Breathe into our waiting a wider vision. Let us notice and name the kingdom coming in the small and unexpected; You are already here, and You have been at work since the beginning. Make us alive to your Spirit, witnessing to everyday grace, through the one who sends you and the one in whom you dwell, one God, present and coming, forever. **Amen.**

Officiant: Let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

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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