

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

We believe in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
He is the true and living God,
worthy to receive glory and honor and power.
He created all things;
by his will they existed and were created.
We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ;
all things came into being through him.
He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.
In him all things in heaven and on earth were created.
He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
Being in the form of God, he emptied himself;
he took the form of a slave, and was born in human likeness.
Being found in human form, he humbled himself;
he became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.
Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;
he was buried; he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
God also highly exalted Jesus:
he gave him the name that is above every name.
God has put all things under his feet:
he made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body.
We believe that Jesus died and rose again:
through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
As all die in Adam,
so all will be made alive in Christ.
Thanks be to God
who gives us the victory.

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GLORIA PATRI

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In Colossians 1:15–16, the blessed apostle Paul sings the praises of our Lord Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all creation; in whom all things in heaven and on earth were created. Let us affirm God’s sovereignty over all creation, continuing our worship through the offering of our gifts to the Lord.
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2012 Westminster
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known;
One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.
One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name;
On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Imagining your reign can be difficult, eternal God. It is difficult to picture a world governed by your justice and righteousness alone. Our minds are held captive by the worst images of human kings, rulers, and powers.
When nobler visions fail and we settle for kingdoms of our own making, correct and forgive us. Free the borders of our imaginations, that we may envision your greater good and celebrate the coming of your reign on earth as in heaven. Amen.
Lay Reader: Hear the prophecy of Zechariah: Tender mercy and forgiveness are the ways of God. We are forgiven. Let the church say, **Amen.**

Hans Holznagel, “Worship Elements: November 20, 2022,” Ministry Matters,
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4410/worship-elements-november-20-2022>.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN SING

SECOND GOSPEL READING

Luke 23:33-43, CEB

When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.” They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing. The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one.” The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine and saying, “If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read “This is the king of the Jews.” One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, “Don’t you fear God, seeing that you’ve also been sentenced to die? We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus replied, “I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise.”

LESSON

“LET THE KING SURPRISE YOU”

NED ALDERMAN