

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Sunday Virtual Worship

SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP

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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Communion" Reginald Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 97)

Leader: The Lord is king! let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

People: Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side.

Leader: His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

People: The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.

Leader: The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.

People: Light dawns for the righteous and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

*HYMN 482 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

PRAYER of the DAY (In unison)

O God, your Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples, and sent them into the world to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. By your Holy Spirit, hold the church in unity, and keep it faithful to your Word, so that, breaking bread together, we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service, now and forever. Amen.

CALL to CONFESSION

Trusting in the promise of grace, let us tell the whole truth about ourselves and turn to God's mercy for the renewal and amendment of our lives.

PRAYER of CONFESSION (In unison)

Gracious Power, you call us to your everlasting and healing springs to be drenched and reformed, but we fail to heed you. We do not turn with love to our neighbors, to ourselves, or to you. Forgive us for our failings, shield us from our due, and guide us into unity with all for the sake of the whole world. Amen.

SINGING 572 "Lord, Have Mercy upon Us"

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

In the compassion of the God who prays for us, with us, and in us, you are forgiven, for the sake of the one who was sent to show us the face of love, and who died and rose, one with the Father and with us.

Hear the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (In unison)

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, remove the scales and restore our sight, that in these words of Scripture and sermon we may see the risen Lord. Enliven our hearts by your Spirit, so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 16:16-34 and John 17:20-26

SERMON

"Armed with Song"

Rev. Myles Thompson

AFFIRMATION of FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN

"My Life Flows On" (How Can I Keep from Singing)

INVITATION to OFFERING

(Those joining us online may use our online giving platform at hocpc.org/give)

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER of DEDICATION (In unison)

Gracious and giving God, you are the One who first has given to us all that we need for life. Guide us to use what we now gather for the well-being of your church,

for those in need of shelter and food, for all who suffer for want of your Word,

and for nurturing faith in your people. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION to the TABLE

On the day of the Lord, God will make for all people a feast of rich foods and well-aged wines. The Lord will destroy the shroud that is cast over us; God will swallow up death forever and wipe away every tear. On that day, the people of God will say: this is the Lord, for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in God's saving love.

PRAYER of GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is a right and joyful thing to give you thanks, God of wisdom and hope. In every age you have confirmed in the saints the glorious promise of our inheritance in Christ and the immeasurable greatness of your just and gracious power. And so with angels and

archangels and all the host of heaven, we sing your praise and join the everlasting hymn:

*HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord"

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power, God of 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, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you and blessed is your Son. You revealed your life-giving power through Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at your right hand in glory. And yet he lived among us, our friend and brother, offering himself for our salvation. O God, because we remember the life and work of Christ, his ministry among the poor and forsaken, his death upon the cross of human shame, the victory of the empty tomb, and his ascension to glory, we offer our lives in praise and thanksgiving to be a living sacrifice in union with Christ our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon the gifts of bread and wine we share.

Through these gifts draw us into communion with Christ who dwells with you in glory. Make us one with Christ as members of his body, united in love and service for the world and showing the fullness of him who is all in all. Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forevermore. **Amen**.

WORDS of INSTITUTION and BREAKING of the BREAD

COMMUNION of the PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God Most High, we have lifted our hearts to you in this joyful meal with our risen Lord. Continue to sustain us with your power and draw us into your presence so that we may feast with you in glory at the wedding of heaven and earth; through Christ, who lives and reigns forever. **Amen**.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and 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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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 423

"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

Your chains are broken; your prison doors are open.

Go forth, then, with joy to live as one with the God who sends you out.

Let the hope that is in you free you daily

that, through you, the Holy Spirit may set others free.

Now may the power that is in Christ Jesus,

the strength of the Holy Spirit to baptize and save,

and the fierce love of God, the Creator, keep you in grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "March" Sir Edward Elgar



Acts 16:16-34

¹⁶One day as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a female slave who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. 17 While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. 19 But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. 34 He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.



John 17:20-26

20 "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them."

