



Sunday, May 4, 2025

Sunday
Virtual Worship

SUNDAY VIRTUAL WORSHIP

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3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Melodie"

Piotor/Tchaikovsky

CALL TO WORSHIP (Revelation 5:11-13)

Leader: I looked and heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne, and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice:

People: Worthy is the lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

Leader: Then I heard every creature on earth, and under the earth, and in the sea, singing:

People: To the one who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!

*HYMN 142

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

PRAYER of the DAY (In unison)

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection may, through the renewing power of your Spirit, arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CALL to CONFESSION

When your soul is suffering in silence, call out to the Lord our God, who heals our brokenness, who lifts us up from the pit, and restores our lives. Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER of CONFESSION (In unison)

Lord God, in the light of your glory we see the evil we have done, the suffering we have caused, the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied. Heal us of our sin, wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace, so that we may follow your way and tell the good news of the gospel in word and deed. 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

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Rise up from the dust! Cast off the shroud of sorrow and put on the joy of the Lord.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

***SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST**

CHORAL ANTHEM *“We Gather at Your Table, Lord”* arr. Walter Ehret

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 9:1-20 and John 21:1-19

SERMON *“Blinded by the Light”* Rev/ Myles Thompson

AFFIRMATION of FAITH (from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (11.2))

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

***HYMN 429** *“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”*

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)

Worthy are you, O God, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. Receive these gifts of thanksgiving and praise, and use them for your glory and the good of your people; in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lamb. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION to the TABLE

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

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 truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets. Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth and set us among all your creatures to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful to you, you kept faith with us. When we were slaves in Egypt, you broke the bonds of our oppression, brought us through the sea to freedom, and made a covenant to be our God. By a pillar of fire you led us through the desert to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. You spoke of love and justice through the prophets, and in the Word made flesh you lived among us, manifesting your glory. He died that we might live, and is risen to raise us to new life. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

***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.*

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to save us.
He came with healing in his touch, and was wounded for our sins.
He came with mercy in his voice, and was mocked as one despised.
He came with peace in his heart, and met with violence and death.
By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb,
and at his command the gates of hell were opened.
The one who was dead now lives.
The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation,
the Lamb upon the throne.
The one ascended on high is with us always, as he promised.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and we celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one Crucified and risen.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
that we may be one with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.
Nourished at this table, O God,
may we know Christ's redemptive love and live a new life in him.
Give us who are fed at his hand grace to share our bread with the hungry, and with the
hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and
we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all the glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

BREAKING the BREAD—LIFTING the CUP

COMMUNION of the PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this
meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us.
Now send us forth from this place by the power of your spirit to tell this good news to the
world: the Lord has risen indeed! **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 181** *"Come Sing to God"* (Psalm 30)

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

Beloved children, may the love of the holy triune God—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—abide with you forever. **Alleluia!**
Now go forth in Jesus' name, remember his new commandment to love one another,
just as he has loved us. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"Chorale"

Johannes Brahms



Acts 9:1-20

¹ Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”



John 21:1-19

¹ After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. ⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."