

Morning Worship Sunday 29th May 2022

7th Sunday of Easter

Reading 1: Acts 16: 16 - 34

Gospel: John 17: 20 - end

Proclamation:

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with us all.

This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Song: (*click link*) In Christ Alone <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16KYvflc2bE>

Invitation to Confession

We have come together as God's family
to pray for the recovery of the unity of Christ's Church
and for the renewal of our common life.
The Lord is full of gentleness and compassion.
In penitence and faith let us ask His forgiveness of our sins

Confession:

Most Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another,
in thought and word and deed.
We are truly sorry for our pride, and for our lack of faith,
of understanding and of love.
We repent of our narrow mindedness, of our bitterness and our prejudices.
Pardon and forgive us, save us and renew us,
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution:

May Almighty God cleanse us from sin
and make us worthy of the kingdom of His glory.
Amen.

Reading 1: Acts 16: 16 – 34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl 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 a 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 market-place before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as 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 on 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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel: John 17: 20 – end

I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will 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.'

This is the gospel of the lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Talk: *(click link)* <https://youtu.be/0wVYvudVWMk>

Song: *(click link)* Lord of All Hopefulness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCBjxVP6GWE>

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

The Creed

Though He was divine,
He did not cling to equality with God,
But made Himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
He was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
And was obedient to death,
Even the death of a cross.
Therefore God has raised Him on high,
And given Him the name above every name:
That at the name of Jesus
Every knee should bow,
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

(Please add in names and circumstances known to you in the appropriate place)

Loving God, we so long for the world to be at peace – but war rages on. So, we pray today for those who live in war zones, especially in Ukraine where the battles are intensifying and the casualties are rising, but also for those places that have slipped out of the news but where fighting continues. We pray for all who have been displaced from their homes as a consequence of war and oppression.

Lord Jesus, come into our world afresh
and turn longing and fear into belonging and peace.

Compassionate God, we long for our children and schools to be safe and our hearts are breaking at the tragedy in Texas. We pray for those who have been killed and injured, for children and teachers traumatised by the shooting, for grieving families, for the emergency services and for those entrusted with the making of gun laws.

Lord Jesus, come into our world afresh
and turn longing and loss into belonging and comfort.

Generous God, we so long for every child to be fed and for every community to thrive – but hunger and poverty blight the lives of so many. We pray for those turning to violence and crime to get what they need, for those protesting and campaigning and for the places where there is civil unrest due to the cost of living. We pray for a fair sharing of the earth's resources, and for ethical farming practices and trade deals.

Lord Jesus, come into our world afresh
and turn longing and scarcity into belonging and plenty.

Wise God, we pray for politicians and those in power, for our own government, for the newly elected government in Australia. We pray for those engaged in diplomacy across the family of nations, and for all those who abuse power. We pray for transparency and accountability for all those who hold public office.

Lord Jesus, come into our world afresh
and turn longing and power into belonging and servanthood.

Living God, we pray for your church around the world and in this place. We long to see your kingdom come, and we ask that you will use us to be your hands and feet and voice, wherever there is need or isolation or grief. We pray you will help us to be good stewards of your creation, good listeners where people are struggling, and good companions where people are searching for you.

Lord Jesus, come into our world afresh
and turn longing and loneliness into belonging and fellowship.
Amen.

Collect:

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

Usually, at this point in the service, we take up our offering; let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.

Song: (*click link*) Eyes have seen the Glory Mix (Big Sing at Royal Albert Hall)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maty13s_db4&list=RDmaty13s_db4&start_radio=1

Blessing:

Almighty God,
who raised Jesus from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high:
may we know your resurrection power in our daily lives and look with hope to that day
when we shall see you face to face
and share in your glory ...

...and the blessing of God almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us, and all and those whom we love,
this day and always. Amen

As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.