

Sunday, May 16, 2010
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Acts 16:16–34

A reading from _____.

The owners of a slave-girl who used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for "healing" her and, consequently, ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.

¹⁶One 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. ¹⁷While 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." ¹⁸She 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.

¹⁹But 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. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly 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. ²⁷When 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. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 97

Refrain: Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous. (Ps. 97:12)

¹The LORD reigns; let the ¹ earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the ¹ isles be glad.

²**Clouds and darkness sur- ¹ round the LORD,
righteousness and justice are the foundations ¹ of God's throne.**

³Fire goes be- ¹ fore the LORD,
burning up enemies on ¹ every side.

⁴**Lightnings light ¹ up the world;
the earth ¹ sees and trembles.**

⁵The mountains ¹ melt like wax
before the Lord of ¹ all the earth.

⁶**The heavens declare your righteous- ¹ ness, O LORD,
and all the peoples ¹ see your glory. R**

⁷Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight ¹ in false gods!
Bow down before the LORD, ¹ all you gods.

⁸**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- ¹ dah rejoice,
because of your judg- ¹ ments, O LORD.**

⁹For you are the LORD, most high over ¹ all the earth;
you are exalted far a- ¹ bove all gods.

¹⁰**You who love the ¹ LORD, hate evil!
God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand ¹ of the wicked.**

¹¹Light dawns ¹ for the righteous,
and joy for the hon- ¹ est of heart.

¹²**Rejoice in the ¹ LORD, you righteous,
and give thanks to God's ¹ holy name. R**

SECOND READING: Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21

A reading from _____.

The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.

¹²See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁶It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."
And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift."

²⁰The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 17:20–26

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus prays that the life of his followers will be characterized by an intimate unity of identity with God. To be so identified with God means also to share in God's mission: to proclaim the word that will bring others into this same unity.

²⁰I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that 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. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I 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. ²⁴Father, 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.

²⁵Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the glory of the resurrection dawn, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Holy One-in-Three, tear down the walls that divide your church and make us one. Fill us with the grace of the risen Christ to make your name known to all the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enlighten our earth darkened by natural disasters, pollution, and violence. Bring water to lands where there is drought, sun where there is flood, and peace where there is war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let your love be known to all those who have been attacked, beaten, or imprisoned. Guide all police, judges, lawyers, and prison guards in the ways of justice. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Unfasten the chains of those who are captive to addictions or disease (*especially*). Watch over all caregivers, and give rest to the dying, especially those who will die today. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Renew the downtrodden in this assembly; energize the old among us; and instruct the young. Help us make use of our diverse gifts, that we might glorify you in many ways. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, our beginning and our end, we remember with thanksgiving all the departed saints gathered around the tree of life, whose witness sustains us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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