



## Sunday Worship at Home 29<sup>th</sup> May (Sunday after Ascension)

**Opening Prayers:** Alleluia. Christ is Risen  
**He is Risen Indeed Alleluia**

Faithfull one whose word is life, come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives. For the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

### **Invitation to confession:**

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair.

**Lord have mercy.**

Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness.

**Christ have mercy.**

Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying.

**Lord have mercy.**

May almighty God who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Collect:** Risen, Ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your church on earth with your 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

### **A Reading from 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. 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." 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. 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. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 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. 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. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night, he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. 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.

### **Reflection on the Reading:**

There's a wonderful image in our reading where the jailer moves from despair to celebration. Despair at the thought of what might happen to him for letting the prisoners escape, which surely would have been death, to celebration as he encountered the very living God that the disciples had been talking about through the words of Silas and Paul. So changed was the jailer that he and his whole household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God. Unfortunately, most of us are not gifted evangelists like Silas and Paul, sometimes we even hesitate to call ourselves Christians, but we should be proud to do so and we should be proud to speak to those around us of our love of God and his goodness without fear. I'm not saying it's easy, we all struggle at times, but we can do it without being "holier than thou" or pushy. Speaking about God is a task passed to each and every one of us by Jesus himself, he didn't say just Irene, Eddie or Jenny. All of us who are Christians are called to make new Christians and to carry on where Jesus left off. You can do it by word, a kind action, being a friend to the lonely or just doing good in so many other ways. That was the job for the original disciples and it's your job too, whether you like it or not! Amen

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen**

**Be still and pray:** Include prayers for the church, the needs of the world, especially Ukraine, and your community. Her majesty the Queen. Those who are ill and those who have died, especially Gloria Boyes, Peter King and Dorothea Clark. May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, which art in heaven.....

**May God, bless you and give you his peace. Amen.**

*Reverend Irene*