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CLASSIC WORSHIP • SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 10TH, 2026 • 8:30 AM • WEEK 4: TABLE CONVERSATIONS – THE LONG GAME

Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened by His Word to be His witnesses.

Families, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; there is a cry room near the back of the sanctuary and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the elevator (to the left as you exit the sanctuary). **Guests**: we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the *Guest* side of our *Welcome Card* found in the pews/chair backs, then place it in the offering plates. **Holy Communion**: Questions, please see purple sheets on *Info Table* or near the bulletins.

As We Gather: Table Conversations, *the big idea*: How can we communicate some of the important parts of our faith life and do it in such a way that, though there are disagreements, we speak without sacrificing our own convictions? How do we teach without sacrificing love? How do we strengthen the bond between a parent and a child, friends, families, co-workers so that when the bond gets bumpy, they can still hold onto one another. Relational witnessing can be one of the most powerful and simple ways to share what it is that you believe and pass on what is closest to your faith life in Christ.

As people gather in the sanctuary, where the only candle lit in the church is the Christ candle, take the time to meditate on how Christ is our light in a growing dark world and how we are called to be a city on a hill.

WELCOME / VIDEO

The Extraordinary Women Among Us / 231 Worship

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN

792 "New Songs of Celebration Render"

- 1 New songs of celebration render; To Him who has great wonders done;
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor; Come and adore the mighty One.
He has made known His great salvation; Which all His friends with joy confess.
He has revealed to ev'ry nation; His everlasting righteousness.
- 2 Joyfully, heartily resounding, Let ev'ry instrument and voice
Peal out the praise of grace abounding, Calling the whole world to rejoice.
Trumpets and organs, set in motion; Such sounds as make the heavens ring;
All things that live in earth and ocean, Make music for your mighty King.
- 3 Rivers and seas and torrents roaring, Honor the Lord with wild acclaim;
Mountains and stones, look up adoring, And find a voice to praise His name.
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious, Praises be His that never cease:
Just is our God, whose truth victorious, Establishes the world in peace.





OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 124:8; John 14:18; Hebrews 13:6

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C who made heaven and earth.

P Jesus said, "I will not leave you as orphans;

C I will come to you."

P So we can confidently say,

C "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

John 14:19

[Silence for personal confession and reflection.]

P We confess: Father, we have neglected You and Your commandments.

C Forgive us, Lord.

P Jesus, we have doubted Your Word and failed to display Your love to others.

C Forgive us, Lord.

P Spirit, we have trusted our own sinful hearts rather than seeking Your truth.

C Forgive us, Lord.

P O Triune God, look on us in mercy and make Your dwelling within us.

C Restore us as Your rescued people to seek Your holy will. Amen.

P To save you from sin, the Father gave you His very own Son. On His cross, Jesus paid your debt and rose to declare, "because I live, you also will live." By the Spirit's power, we trust in the pardon won for us by Christ, our Lord. In the stead and by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

HYMN OF PRAISE

948 "All Glory Be to God Alone"

1 All glory be to God alone, Forevermore the highest one,
Who did our sinful race befriend; And grace and peace to us extend.
Among us may His gracious will, All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

4 You take the whole world's sin away; Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
You take the whole world's sin away; O Lord, receive our prayer this day.
From God's right hand Your mercy send, To all the world Your grace extend.

5 You only are the Holy One; And over all are Lord alone.
O Jesus Christ, we glorify; You and the Spirit, Lord Most High;
With Him You evermore shall be, One in the Father's majesty.

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Be Seated





CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ WORD +

FIRST READING

Acts 17:16–31

(Paul preaches Jesus, pointing Athenians to the "unknown God".)

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. ²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'" ²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

645 "Built on the Rock"

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand; Even when steeples are falling,
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land; Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest, But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.
- 2 Surely in temples made with hands; God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands, All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above; Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.
- 3 We are God's house of living stones, Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns; Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell, Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.


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EPISTLE

1 Peter 3:13–22

(Believers are prepared to give a reason for their hope in Christ the Lord.)

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good...





EPISTLE (cont.)

1 Peter 3:13–22

...behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

VERSE

Romans 6:9; John 16:33b

P Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

C In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3; 11-32

(The Parable of the Prodigal and Elder Brothers.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ... ¹¹ And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.





C Praise to You, O Christ.

Be Seated – Children are dismissed for Children’s Church.

MESSAGE HYMN

915 “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther’s wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav’n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o’er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv’n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav’n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther’s home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

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MESSAGE

Please Stand – Children return from Children’s Church.

CREED

Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed and Meaning

C 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

OFFERING *(Thanks for your ongoing stewardship and support of God’s mission here!)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Prayer response after each petition...)*

P For our good and for Your glory,

C O God, we pray.

LORD’S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13





BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

646 "Church of God, Elect and Glorious"



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly
2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to
4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the



na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own
His most mar - v'ulous light; Brought His truth to
peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and



spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of
life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to
swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter



grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,
sight. Let your light so shine a - round you
sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing



Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that
That God's name is glo - ri - fied; And all find fresh
Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in



knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

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DISMISSAL

Into the world, making a clear confession of Christ...

HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen (virtual & in-person) today...

Message Rev. Jason Hoerth
Children's Message Jamie Schwartz
Service Music Cheryl Heck
Trustees Todd Thorbhan / Dylan Boone

Acolyte Isaiah Schwartz
Reader Robin Greene
Elder Robert Buckingham
Counters Brad & Jesse Witzman



Come & See † Come & Be ✨ Take & Share

Acknowledgments

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Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.

