**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER June 1, 2025**

**Prairieland Parish**

*As we unite**in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God*

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***We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord***



**Prelude - Welcome - Announcements**

Our text for this week says there are wrongs that need righted. It says there are systems, there are presumptions and prejudices, there are oppressive patterns and economic cycles that are impossible to break out of without help.

Paul and Silas are accused of disturbing the city. So, how will we disturb our city today?

But wait, you may be thinking, we can’t get political, and I promise you I am not thinking about a political platform here. I am talking about a different approach.

Folks we are in the kingdom building business and it is our job to go out and be leaders in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

So, I ask you - What would that transformation look like today?

What would be different in the kin-dom of God?

For today is a day of casting a vision of what it means to be working toward, leaning toward, co-creating with God the kin-dom we long for.

**Call to Worship:**

In a world filled with violence and war,

**we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.**

In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,

**we gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.**

In a world filled with hunger and greed,

**we gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.**

Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,

**the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth.**

**Opening Prayer:**

**God of freedom, Paul and Silas worshiped you, even when they were flogged and imprisoned. Transform our hearts so that we may also rejoice in you at all times and in all situations. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE, UMH 133 “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”**

*Author: Elisha A. Hoffman (1887)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Tune Information*

*Name: SHOWALTER*

*Composer: Anthony J. Showalter (1887)*

**1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,**

**leaning on the everlasting arms;**

**what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,**

**leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Refrain:**

**Leaning, leaning,**

**safe and secure from all alarms;**

**leaning, leaning,**

**leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,**

**leaning on the everlasting arms;**

**O how bright the path grows from day to day,**

**leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**(Refrain)**

**3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,**

**leaning on the everlasting arms?**

**I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,**

**leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**(Refrain)**

***We Hear God’s Word***

**New Testament Reading……………………………………………………………………………… Acts 16:16-34**

**New Revised Standard Version**

***Paul and Silas in Prison***

*16 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] 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 marketplace 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[b] 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[c] 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.*

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**FAITH HYMN UMH #547 “O Church of God, United”**

*Author: Frederick B. Morley (1953)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Copyright: Words © 1954, renewed 1982 The Hymn Society of America, admin. Hope Publishing Company*

**1 O church of God, united**

**to serve one common Lord,**

**proclaim to all one message,**

**with hearts in glad accord.**

**Christ ever goes before us;**

**we follow day by day**

**with strong and eager footsteps**

**along the upward way.**

**2 From every land and nation**

**the ordered ranks appear;**

**to serve one valiant leader**

**they come from far and near.**

**They chant their one confession,**

**they praise one living Lord,**

**and place their sure dependence**

**upon his saving word.**

**3 Though creeds and tongues may differ,**

**they speak, O Christ, of thee;**

**and in thy loving spirit**

**we shall one people be.**

**Lord, may our faithful service**

**and singleness of aim**

**proclaim to all the power**

**of thy redeeming name.**

**4 May thy great prayer be answered**

**that we may all be one,**

**close bound, by love united**

**in thee, God's blessed Son:**

**to bring a single witness,**

**to make the pathway bright,**

**that souls which grope in darkness**

**may find the one true light.**

**Message”**

**INVITATION (UMH page 12)**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin

and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**CONFESSION AND PARDON.**

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,**

**we have broken your law,**

**we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,**

**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING\***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image

and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,

your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,

made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and 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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him

to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

and to announce that the time had come

when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant

by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,

he promised to be with us always,

in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,

he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,

gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

that we may be for the world the body of Christ,

redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

one with each other,

and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory

and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,

now and forever. Amen.

And now with the confidence of Gods Children let us pray, Our father…

**Sharing of the elements**

**Joys/Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

Creating God, we look forward to the arrival of your city,

And we recognize our part to play.

The tree of life needs clean water;

The ground needs to be prepared.

Our work has begun.

Guide our hands in seeing to it.

Loving God, open allow our imaginations to take control

When our minds say, “That’s not possible.”

Make us dream of a city, not another empire.

Returning God,

Give us urgency

Raise us up as prophets

To proclaim the good news

That the time has come.

God-throughout-Creation,

Strengthen our hands to do the work

And make them soft to reach out to those on the fence.

As we raise to you this day………….

Lord, from the bottom of our hearts, may we be the builders you ask us to be. Amen.

**Offertory/Doxology/Prayer**

Transforming God, we have come to your house as children.  
The Table is ever-growing And we revel in your gifts for us.  
Receive our simple offerings, That they may be used to faithfully serve in building your kin-dom come. Amen.

**Departing Hymn UMH #671. “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”**

**1. Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;**

**fill our hearts with joy and peace;**

**let us each, thy love possessing,**

**triumph in redeeming grace.**

**O refresh us, O refresh us,**

**traveling through this wilderness.**

**2. Thanks we give and adoration**

**for thy gospel's joyful sound.**

**May the fruits of thy salvation**

**in our hearts and lives abound;**

**ever faithful, ever faithful**

**to the truth may we be found.**

**Benediction**

May we go from this place to live lives that hold this world in care and compassion, dreaming a New Creation as God’s beloveds.

Go in peace…

**\*POSTLUDE**