

*WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GETHSEMANE!* Mother's Day, May 9, 2021

## *TODAY'S FOCUS*

**We continue an eight-week series on the book of Acts with part 5: "What Really Matters." As the church starts to grow, there is debate on what it takes to be a real Christian. We have to have similar discussions in every generation. *We also pray for our families, especially for mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers on this special Mother's Day.***

### **+ GLORIFY THE LORD +**

*HWC 560 FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH* sts. 1, Ref, 3, 5

1 For the beauty of the earth  
For the glory of the skies  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies. **REFRAIN**

**Ref Lord of all to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise!**

3 For the joy of human love  
Brother, sister, parent, child  
Friends on earth and friends above  
For all gentle thoughts and mild. **REFRAIN**

5 For Thyself best gift divine  
To our race so freely given;  
For that great great love of Thine  
Peace on earth and joy in heaven. **REFRAIN**

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 146:1–2, 5, 10

**P** Praise the LORD!

**C** Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**P** I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

**C** I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**C** whose hope is in the LORD his God.

**P** The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

**C** Praise the LORD!

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

**C** Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We

do indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.

**P** God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

### *UNTO THE KING*

**Chorus:** Now unto the King eternal

Unto the King immortal

Unto the King invisible

The only wise God

The only wise God (REPEAT)

1 Verse

Oh unto the King be glory and honor

Unto the King forever

Unto the King be glory and honor

Forever and ever amen

Close: Forever! Amen!

## *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--including the gift of Mothers and Your holy Word, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think and do those things that are right; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **+ GOD'S WORD FOR US +**

### *FIRST READING*

Acts 15:1–31 NIV

<sup>15:1</sup> Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.” <sup>2</sup> This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. <sup>3</sup> The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. <sup>4</sup> When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

<sup>5</sup> Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

<sup>6</sup> The apostles and elders met to consider this question. <sup>7</sup> After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

<sup>12</sup> The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. <sup>13</sup> When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

<sup>16</sup> “After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent.

Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,

<sup>17</sup> that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name,

says the Lord, who does these things’—<sup>18</sup> things known from long ago.

<sup>19</sup> “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

<sup>22</sup> Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, men who were leaders among the believers. <sup>23</sup> With them they sent the following letter:

The apostles and elders, your brothers,  
To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia:  
Greetings.

<sup>24</sup> We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. <sup>25</sup> So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul— <sup>26</sup> men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>27</sup> Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. <sup>28</sup> It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

<sup>29</sup> You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Farewell.

<sup>30</sup> So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. <sup>31</sup> The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*EPISTLE*

1 John 4:7–12 NIV

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love

among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*HOLY GOSPEL*

Mark 3:31–35 NIV

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the third chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

<sup>33</sup> "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

<sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## *HWC 293 RISE UP, O CHURCH OF GOD*

- 1 Rise up O church of God  
Have done with lesser things  
Give heart and mind and soul and strength  
To serve the King of kings
- 2 Rise up O church of God  
His kingdom tarries long  
Bring in the day of unity  
And end the night of wrong
- 3 Rise up O sons of God  
The church for you doth wait  
Her strength unequal to her task  
Rise up and make her great
- 4 Lift high the cross of Christ  
Tread where His feet have trod  
As foll'wers of the Son of Man  
Rise up O church of God

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*MESSAGE: Acting On Our Faith, part 5 "What Really Matters"*

### *CREED*

**☐ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living  
and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead**

and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

*MOTHER'S DAY RESPONSIVE PRAYER*

**L** Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!

**C** **Thank God for mothers!**

**L** Everyone here is either a son or a daughter.

**C** **Thank God for my mother!**

**L** For those women who have joined God in Heaven and whom we miss dearly here on earth.

**C** **Thank God for the mothers of the past**

**P** For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children right now.

**C** **Thank God for the mothers of today.**

**L** For all the women who are expecting, but aren't quite mothers yet!

**C** **Thank God for the soon-to-be-mothers.**

**L** For the women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.

**C** **Thank God for the mothers with hearts so big.**

**L** For those women who have lost a child and must carry on.

**C** **Lord, comfort the mothers with wounds so deep.**

**L** For all the women who have wanted to have children of their own, but loved others as a mother.

**C** **Thank God for the mothers in spirit.**

**We thank you, Lord, for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honor them in everything we do. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

*OUR PRAYERS*

**+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION+**

*INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION*

*LORD'S PRAYER*

**☩ Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*WORDS OF OUR LORD*

**☩ Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."**

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**+ COMMUNION SONG +**

*LSB 550 LAMB OF GOD*

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod,  
And to become the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

**ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
The humble King they named a fraud,  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

3 I was so lost, I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod,  
And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

## *RECOGNITION OF MOTHERS*

**P** Since 1870, the second Sunday in May has been designated as a time to honor mothers in the United States. In more recent times, expressions of appreciation and honor have been extended to grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and all women whose contributions to the well-being of children have enriched society. Through the ages, many women have been remembered and honored by the Church. Today, we celebrate Christian women throughout the centuries, thanking God for them.

## *BENEDICTION*

**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.**

## *HONOR CHRISTIAN MOTHERS* sts. 1, Ref, 2–3, 5

1 Honor Christian mothers, Instruments of God;  
Raising faithful fam'lies; worshiping the Lord.  
Foll'wing His commandments, showing us the way,  
Love and faith and kindness; teaching us to pray. **REFRAIN**

**Ref Honor Christian mothers, Instruments of God;  
Raising faithful fam'lies. worshiping the Lord.**

2 "Let it be," say mothers, trusting as they pray,  
Finding strength and courage, grace for ev'ry day  
Challenges surround us, but we will not fear.  
God's love will sustain us, help, our burdens bear. **REFRAIN**

3 God, be with our mothers who have gone before,  
Certain of His promise: life forevermore.  
In His many mansions, love again we'll share,  
He will lift all sorrow, wipe away each tear. **REFRAIN**

**Ref Honor Christian mothers, Instruments of God;  
Raising faithful fam'lies. worshiping the Lord.**

5 Honor Christian Mothers--Heaven's gift of love.  
Join with them in service to the Lord above.  
Follow their example, let your lights so shine--  
All will see your goodness, praise the One Divine. **REFRAIN**

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