

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 6, 2005

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

## THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

*“Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide”*

Robert J. Hughes

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

*“I Wanna Be Ready”*  
Sacred Dancers

choreography - Sylvia Bryant

The Call To Worship

(from Psalm 78)

The glorious deeds of God are too great to be hidden.  
**We will tell the coming generation God's glorious deeds.**  
The might and wonders of God show in all that God does.  
**We will tell the coming generation God's glorious deeds.**  
Forget not the works of God, and keep God's commandments.  
**We have set our hope in God.**

The Prayer of Praise

**We incline our ears to the words of your mouth and will tell of your glorious deeds, O Lord. Your righteousness is like streams of goodness washing our soul. You purify the thoughts of our minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, and sanctify our actions by the gift of your Son Jesus Christ. We appear now before you as children renewed by your mercy, to give you all praise in response to your grace. Glory to you, O God – our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen.**

\*The Hymn 469

*“Morning Has Broken”*

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Too often we have cut ourselves off from You, O God of eternal faithfulness. We are unprepared to respond to Your presence. Our lamps are not trimmed; our lives are not ready for Your trumpet call. We have not listened well or encouraged one another in the faith. The distraction of many things has kept us from meditation and prayer. We are witnesses against ourselves, for we have vowed our loyalty and then have gone our own way. Merciful God, we seek Your forgiveness. .**  
(time for silent confession).

\*The Choral Response

*“Lead Me, Lord”*

\*The Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the Good News! Believe that Jesus died and rose again; and so it will be for those who died as Christians.  
**We believe that Jesus died and rose again; and so God will bring us back to life with Jesus.**  
Friends, believe the Good News!  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

\*The Gloria Patri

p. 579 in the Hymnal

\*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**  
(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.  
Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25*

p. 267 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 78:1-7*

The Anthem

*“As the Bridegroom to His Chosen”*

p. 661 in the pew Bible  
John Rutter

The *Epistle* Lesson: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

p. 250 in the pew Bible

The Children’s Anthem (11:00 am)

*“God Made the Earth”*

Carol Choir

A Moment With the Children

Stewardship Message

\*The Hymn 422

*“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”*

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Matthew 25:1-13*

p. 34 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

*“Success Under Stress”*  
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

\*The *Affirmation of Faith*

(from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.  
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples  
to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture,  
to hear the voices of people long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,  
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People  
The Lord’s Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering  
The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*“Chorale”*

Cesar Franck

\*The Doxology and Prayer of DedicationDoxology, p. 592 in the Hymnal

**We give You thanks, gracious God, for our very lives. In our ability to do the work You give us we rejoice. Use both these gifts and those who give them for the work of Your reign in Jesus Christ our Lord. By Your grace, may we daily choose to serve You, O God - our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME.

\*The Hymn 369

*“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”*

\*The Charge & Benediction

*“Go With Us, Lord”*

\*Postlude

*Fantasia on “Iste Confessor”*

L. Smith