

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

November 7, 2004    The Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost    8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

## THE PEOPLE GATHER.

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

*“Shall We Gather at the River”*

John Coates, arr.

The Call To Worship

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**The Lord is good to all, and God’s compassion is over all creation.**

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
and all your faithful shall bless you.

**Our mouths shall speak the praise of the Lord,  
and all flesh will bless God’s holy name forever and ever.**

The Prayer of Praise

**You are worthy of all praise, O God; your judgment is sure. Like a refiner’s fire, you purify your people and temper their desires. The heat is your love for them; the flame is the Spirit’s power within. The light is the light, which illumines the world. Come, fire from above, and fill our being, as we worship and adore our maker. Through Jesus Christ, in union with the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and forever. Amen.**

\*The Hymn 483

*“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”*

\*The Prayer of Confession

**All-knowing God, we are reluctant to identify sin or wickedness in ourselves. We do not consider violent behavior or lawless rebellion our personal problem. We would not think of elevating ourselves to take your place. Yet we find ourselves viewing the world from the narrow perspective of our own self-interest. Our anger at others spills over into our words and deeds. We ignore you in our decision-making and fail to give thanks to you in our daily living. Without your forgiveness and transforming love, there is little hope for us. Hear us and save us, we pray in Jesus’ name. . .(time for silent confession). . .**

\*The Choral Response

*“Spirit of God”*

\*The Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**The Lord upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.**

The Lord is good to all:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! 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.)

Mission Moment

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Haggai 1:15b-2:9p*, 818 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 145:1-5,17-21*

p. 544 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

*“The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee”*

Jean Berger

The *Epistle* Lesson: *2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17*

p. 1032 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

\*The Hymn 552

*“Give Thanks, O Christian People”*

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Luke 20:27-38*

p. 914 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

*“The Eighth Day”*  
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE...

\*The *Apostles' Creed* p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of the People, Memorial Remembrance

The Lord's Prayer p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

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

**For the future glory of your church, we dedicate our gifts. Toward the reign of love in our midst, we consecrate ourselves. O God of all the ages, show yourself to us in our time. Work within us individually and among us as a community of faith, that we may experience resurrection and carry your good news into our world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME. . .

\*The Hymn 422 *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*

\*The Charge & Benediction

A kind and just God sends us out into the world.

We are bearers of truth beyond our understanding.

**We have been comforted and strengthened this day.**

**We have good news to share with the world.**

God watches over those who respond in love.

God fills us with hope and multiplies our good works.

**We will praise God as long as we live.**

**We will witness to the resurrection day by day. . .**

\*Postlude