

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## The Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

November 13, 2005

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand.

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### THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

*"Look at the World"*  
(with Covenant and Youth Choirs)

John Rutter

The Call To Worship

(from *Psalm 123*)

To You I lift up my eyes, O You Who are enthroned in the heavens!

**As the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to You, Giver of every good gift.**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Look with favor upon us, O Lord,  
and be pleased with our praise and thanksgiving.**

The Prayer of Adoration

\*The Hymn 486

*"When the Morning Stars Together"*

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Giving God, you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts and talents. But so often we fail to use them, saving them up for a better time or refusing to believe that we can really use them. We squander the gifts you give us. We are careless with our planet, even though you have entrusted the earth's keeping to us. We are careless with each other, failing to see your face in the faces of each one of your children. Forgive us, Loving God; have mercy on us as we confess our sin...**(time for silent confession.)

\*The Choral Response

*"Every Day and Night the Lord is With Me"*  
Covenant Choir

Hal Hopson

\*The Assurance of Pardon

(from *Rom. 8; II Cor. 5*)

Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn?

**Only Christ, and Christ died for us,  
Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us,  
Christ prays for us.**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

**The old life has gone; a new life has begun.**

Friends, believe the gospel.

**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: *Judges 4:1-7*

p. 273 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 123*

p. 703 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

“*Siyahamba*”  
“*We are Singing for the Lord is Our Light*”  
(The Jubilate Ringers and Choirs)

Hal Hopson

The *Epistle* Lesson: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

p. 250 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

The Reception of New Members

Questions of Membership

\*The *Apostles’ Creed*

p. 14 in the Hymnal

\*The Hymn 343

“*Called As Partners in Christ’s Service*”

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Matthew 25:14-30*

p. 34 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

“*Lock-in!*”  
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Offertory

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

**O God, you endow us with talent beyond what we earn or deserve. You seek from us service to you in all that we think, yearn for, and do. As we bring our gifts and offerings before you, may they reflect a wise investment of your trust in us. May their yield continue to abound as the work that we do spreads your will farther. Through Christ Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen.**

GO IN GOD’S NAME.

\*The Hymn 447

“*Lead On, O King Eternal*”

\*The Charge & Benediction

\*The Postlude