

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHIMES

(The congregation is asked to pray for the blessing of God upon this service.)

God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength. Amen.

PRELUDE *Plainsong on the First Kyrie* François Couperin

INTROIT *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*
UNSER HERRSCHER

The Sanctuary Choir

Open now thy gates of beauty, Waits for God who answers prayer;
Zion, let me enter there, O how blessed is this place,
Where my soul in joyful duty Filled with solace, light, and grace.

CALL TO WORSHIP from *Psalm 27*

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing have I asked of the Lord, and that will I seek after;

To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

†OPENING HYMN, No. 127 *Come, O Spirit* BOUNDLESS MERCY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are reluctant to admit all the ways we have failed to be your people. Created to be one Body, Holy Hope, we are often torn apart by petty squabbles. Called to follow, we push and shove for first place in line. Invited to seek your face, we have trouble looking our sisters and brothers in the eye.

You have promised to be our Light, Healing Heart, so lead us from the shadows of our sin and silliness. You have promised to be our salvation, so set us free to explore the depths of your heart. You have promised to lead us into your kingdom, so show us how to join hands with one another, as we follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

KYRIE ELEISON, No. 572 Congregation and Choir

**Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†ACT OF PRAISE *Gloria Patri* MEINEKE

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen, Amen.**

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Stand, as you are able, and greet one another saying: ***“The peace of Christ be with you.”*** Respond by saying: ***“And also with you.”***
(Children are invited to come forward now for A Time with Children.)

THE WORD

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children, ages 2-3 yrs. who will be going to Extended Session and children, ages 4–first grade who will be in the The Worship Center, may exit at this time through the right front door, where they will be escorted to the CE Building.

Leader: As you depart from us now, the children of God say:

Children: God be with you as you stay.

Congregation: God be with you as you go.

**We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching,
we are marching in the light of God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:1-4
Pew Bible, page 600; large print, page 780
(Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.)

SOLO *O Lord Most Holy* César Franck
Kathleen Jasinkas, guest soloist

O Lord most holy, holy and mighty, Dwell thou in every heart,
O loving Father, hear us as to thee we call. In all our sorrows grant us peace
Grant us our daily bread And rest in thee.
With which our souls are fed, And in temptation's hour,
Father, hear as to thee we call. Save with thy mighty power,
Father, thou art the Lord of all. Father, hear as to thee we call.
Thou who almighty art, Father, thou art the Lord of all.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Pew Bible, page 155; large print, page 201
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *The Problem with Favorites* Rev. Pendleton Peery

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

†HYMN, No. 438 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* DENNIS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

Offertory	<i>God's Eternal Plan</i>	Russell Hancock Miles
	The Sanctuary Choir	
O God of the eternal plan,	As hearts of men and nations bleed;	
Who in thine image fashioned man;	O may thy will decree at last,	
Who in the vastness of thy power,	An end of tyrant's blare and blast.	
Created mountain, tree and flower;	O let not creed nor race deny,	
Who holds aloft in lonely space,	Thy love which fills the earth and sky;	
Each throbbing planet in its place;	O make war's withering sway to cease,	
Whose boundless love each bird and beast,	O Lord God, give thy people peace;	
Alike shares to the very least;	With faith renewed we come to thee,	
O guide us once again we plead,	O heavenly Father, hear our plea. Amen.	

†Doxology, No. 592 OLD HUNDREDTH

†Prayer of Dedication

†HYMN, No. 391 *Take My Life* HENDON

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†RESPONSE *Amen* African-American spiritual
The Sanctuary Choir

†POSTLUDE *Fugue on the Reeds* François Couperin

† Worshipers standing if able.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Edwin L. Blewer, Jr.
by his family.

