

FOR YOU WERE  
ONCE DARKNESS,  
BUT NOW YOU  
ARE **LIGHT** IN  
THE LORD. LIVE  
AS CHILDREN  
OF *Light* +

 EPHESIANS 5:8

# 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023

## GATHERING

**PRAYER FOR MEDITATION:** *Loving God, for each one who leads us in worship today, we pray that they may be so filled with your Spirit that they will clearly reflect the glory of Christ in all they say and do. We pray that everyone in this place will know you are with us and be drawn to serve you and bring you all honor and praise. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.*

## RINGING OF THE CHIMES

### WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Rev. John White*

### PRELUDE

*Morning Has Broken*  
Dr. Terry McRoberts

arr. Martin

### CHORAL INTROIT

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*  
Chancel Choir

Kettring

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Carrie Jones*

One: Gracious God, give us generous hearts, to share whatever gifts you have given us.  
**ALL:** *Gracious God, give us generous hearts.*  
One: To acknowledge you as the giver and source of life.  
**ALL:** *Gracious God, give us loving hearts.*  
One: To share without expecting something in return.  
**ALL:** *Gracious God, give us compassionate hearts.*  
One: To hold all of our treasurers with open hands.  
**ALL:** *Gracious God, give us hearts of freedom.*  
One: So that we might have gospel priorities.  
**ALL:** *Gracious God, give us grateful hearts.*  
One: To recognize the abundance of blessings in each passing day.  
**ALL:** *Gracious God, give us seeing hearts, that we might perceive your grace, and share it thankfully with a world in need. Let us understand your presence, and worship you in truth.*

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 307** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

## PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*Rev. John White*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Rev. John White*

One: Merciful God, forgive us when we close our mouths and hearts, rather than enriching people's lives with the good news of Jesus Christ. Forgive us when we focus on ourselves exclusively and fail to reach out to your people.

**ALL:** *Forgive us when we conceal the wideness of your mercy by our lack of compassionate behavior.*

One: Forgive us when we fail to be adventurous in spreading the gospel around. Increase our capacity to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed even if this means taking risks and reaching beyond our comfort zone.

**ALL:** *Help us to hear the admonition of Jesus to share the spiritual treasure that we have, knowing that as we do, much more will be given. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Rev. John White*

One: God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up in the knowledge that in Jesus Christ we are enriched, we are loved, we are forgiven.

**ALL:** *Thanks be to God for our forgiveness in Christ! Alleluia! Amen!*

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447** *Glory Be to the Father  
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. A-men, a-men.*

GLORIA PATRI

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Rev. John White*

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL:** *And, also, with you.*

## THE WORD

### ANTHEM

*Lord of the Dance*  
Chancel Choir | Noah Berry, bass

arr. Hopson

### TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*Libby Smith*

**\*HYMN: 377** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HOUSTON

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Rev. John White*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*Carrie Jones*

**FIRST READING***Psalm 23 (page 501)*

Carrie Jones

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. *ALL: Thanks be to God.***SECOND READING***Matthew 25:14-30 (page 28-29)*

Rev. John White

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. *ALL: Thanks be to God.***SERMON***Walking in the Light*

Rev. John White

**RESPONSE**\***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Apostles' Creed (Traditional) p.14*

*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.*

*(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it,  
 pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)*

**OFFERING**

Carrie Jones

**OFFERTORY***Prelude on KREMSEK*

Harmon

Dr. Terry McRoberts

\*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Dedicatory Prayer

Carrie Jones

**SENDING**\***HYMN: 369** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'M GONNA LIVE

\***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Rev. John White

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*May the Grace of God Our Savior  
 Chancel Choir*

Stainer

**POSTLUDE**

*Fugue in C Major  
 Dr. Terry McRoberts*

Bach