

### OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**Leader: We lift them up to the Lord.**

### PRELUDE

*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*, arr. J. Hale

### CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 31

Leader: Come, people of God!

**People: Take refuge in the Lord,**

Leader: who listens when we cry out,

**People: who rescues us when we call, and who leads and guides us according to God's unfailing love.**

Leader: You are our rock and our fortress, O God;

**People: Into your hands we place our lives.**

### HYMN 239

*Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*, Gelobt Sei Gott

1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Praise we in songs of victory  
that love, that life which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 The Lord of life is risen today!  
Death's mighty stone is rolled away.  
Let all the earth rejoice and say:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord  
the life laid down, the life restored:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Before God and God's people, we confess that I have been reluctant to speak out clearly, naming the injustice we see and declaring God's vision. Before God and one another, we confess our reluctance to receive our calling as God's people, made by God and chosen as witnesses to God's dream of justice and joy. Remind us, God, that you have made us for your service and recharge us with your Word. Renew us, God. Grant us courage to live out your Way of peace and grace. (*continue with silent confession...*). Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: God has promised that whenever we repent and seek a new union with God, forgiveness is ours. That promise comes true now. Sisters and brothers, know that in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

SERMON

*But They Covered Their Ears*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer, The Lord's Prayer

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN 451

*Open My Eyes, That I May See, Open My Eyes*

1 Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere.  
Open my heart, and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear.  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Gigue Fugue, D. Buxtehude*

**Leaders Today**

Pastor ..... Rev. Scott Anderson  
Liturgist ..... Jeff Hayes  
Minister of Music..... Joe Chrisman  
AV/Tech ..... John Tarr