

OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

PRELUDE

Voluntary, J. Stanley

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145:1-8

Leader: Come, let's praise God together!

People: For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Leader: Let's tell stories of God's power and majesty, God's mighty acts throughout history:

People: for God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Leader: Let's remember the compassion God has shown toward us; God's mercy and unfailing love, generation after generation:

People: for God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Leader: Let's pass these stories along to our children and grandchildren, so that they, too, may come to know and love our God.

People: For God is great, and worthy of our praise! Let's worship God together!

HYMN 718

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said, Bourbon

1 Take up your cross, the Savior said,
if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me.

3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still;
the Lord for you accepted death
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
and calmly every danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life
and leads to victory o'er the grave.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our legs so that we can run after you, O God. In Jesus' name we pray (silent confession continues...) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: People of God, our sins are forgiven; we are reconciled to God.

People: Let us therefore love one another with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

SERMON

The Spiritual Discipline of Empathy

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Joys and Concerns
- Pastoral Prayer
- The Lord’s Prayer

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN 724

O Jesus, I Have Promised, Angel’s Story

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle; the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude to ‘Te Deum’, M.A. Charpentier

Leaders Today

- Preacher.....Pastor Scott Anderson
- Liturgist..... Kathy Kamp
- Minister of MusicJoe Chrisman
- AV/Tech.....John Tarr