

### 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

*Let All Things Now Living*, arr. S. Jones

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 90:1, 2

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations;

**People: you have been our home throughout all the ages.**

Leader: You were there before the world was made and will be forever.

**People: From everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

### HYMN 612

*We Praise You, O God*, Kremser

1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

3 With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide  
us. To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

2 We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;  
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.

When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Almighty God, you have shown us the ways of justice and nurtured us with love. Even so, we have not lived according to your will. When we are oppressed or unjustly accused, we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance. When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others, we hold tight to our privilege and forget your laws. Have mercy on us, Lord, for we are weak and prone to disobedience. Hear our confession, and respond to us with kindness, that we might turn to you again, walk in the light, and live in equity and peace; through Jesus Christ we pray (*silent confession continues...*) Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Because we belong to our Lord Jesus Christ, we need not fear—

**People: for he lived for us, he died for us, he was raised for us and prays for us.**

Leader: Believe the assurance of God:

**People: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 90: 1-8,12

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.  
You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."  
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.  
You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;  
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.  
For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.  
You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.  
So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 25:14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

## SERMON

*Reluctant Servants*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer

## CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

### HYMN 719

*Come, Labor On, Ora Labora*

1 Come, labor on.  
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain  
while all around us waves the golden grain?  
And to each servant does the Master say,  
"Go work today."

2 Come, labor on.  
Claim the high calling angels cannot share;  
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.  
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.  
The night draws nigh.

3 Come, labor on.  
Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!  
No arm so weak but may do service here.  
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill  
God's righteous will.

4 Come, labor on.  
No time for rest, till glows the western sky,  
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,  
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,  
"Well done, well done!"

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Now Thank We All Our God, S. Karg-Elert*

***Leaders Today***

Pastor.....	Scott Anderson
Liturgist.....	Juanita Halls
Minister of Music .....	Joe Chrisman
AV/Tech.....	John Tarr