

LARGE PRINT

# Worship Celebration

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Commitment Sunday

November 19, 2023 + 9 AM

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## We Gather as God's Children

Words of Welcome

**Prelude**

*At the River*

Aaron Copeland

### + Call to Worship

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

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

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

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

**+ Hymn**

*Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day*

UMH 411

## We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place,  
let us listen for the word of God among us.

**People: *Our ears and hearts are open.***

**First Lesson** — Deuteronomy 7.7-9 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup>The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. <sup>8</sup>But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he

swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

The word of God for the people of God.

***Thanks be to God.***

## **Second Lesson — Matthew 25.14-30 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup>“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup>So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup>“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

<sup>21</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>22</sup>“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

<sup>23</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>24</sup>“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup>So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

<sup>26</sup> “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

<sup>28</sup> “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The word of God for the people of God.

***Thanks be to God.***

**Sermon**

*Promises, Promises*

**Hymn**

*The Gift of Love*

UMH 408

**Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer**

**Opportunities for Ministry**

**and Invitation to Give Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory Anthem**

*Shall We Gather at the River?*

arr. Earlene Rentz

**Doxology**

UMH 95

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

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**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment**

***God has entrusted us with a variety of gifts;  
let us return to the Lord  
a generous measure of our bounty  
with thanksgiving and praise. Amen.***

# **We Go Out to Serve in God's Name**

+ Hymn

*A Charge to Keep I Have*

UMH 413

+ Benediction

Postlude

*Sortie in E flat*

Lefebure-Wely

***Our service of worship is ended.  
Our worship through service now begins.***

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## **Morning Prayer**

I give thanks this day for the gift of Christ  
and the privilege to follow in his way.  
This is the greatest life-giving treasure  
that I am called to steward;  
may I share this as freely as I have received it  
from the One who gave himself for the life of the world.  
May I be continually awakened to your love this day. Amen.

## **Evening Prayer**

God, I do not like to confront what I cannot control;  
I shrink before my own limitations and human frailty.  
Help me to trust in your steadfast constancy  
and know that your sovereign goodness is all that I need.  
Teach me to number my days  
so that I may grow wise in heart,  
knowing that, no matter their length,  
I dwell in you eternally. Amen.

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