



8:30 a.m. ~ Sunday, September 15th

PRELUDE

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

arr. Mark Hayes

Piano

WELCOME & RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

OPENING HYMN “O Word of God Incarnate”

OPENING LITURGY

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: As we delve into the I AM Statements found in the Gospel of John, we see a beautiful account of God coming into our flesh to reconcile humanity and save us from our sin. As John’s Gospel opens, we read, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C: **He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.**

P: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

C: **But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

[Moment of silent confession]

P: Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never go thirsty.”

C: **But there are times when we’ve attempted to satisfy our hunger and thirst elsewhere.**

P: Jesus said, “I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

C: **But there are times when we’ve preferred to stay in darkness.**

P: Jesus said, “I am the Door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved.”

C: **But there are times when we’ve chosen to remain outside.**

P: Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd and the Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

C: **But we often go astray and get lost in the thicket.**

P: Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

C: **But there are times when we've placed our belief in other things.**

P: Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

C: **But there are times when we've defined the truth for ourselves.**

P: Jesus said, "I am the True Vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, will bear much fruit. Apart from Me you can do nothing.

C: **But there are times when we've not abided in You and have been unable to bear Your fruit. We pray for Your everlasting mercy and grace. Give us Your bread that we may no longer hunger and may nourish those around us. Shine Your light in us so that we may shine it in the darkness of Your fallen creation. Open the door that we may enter and be saved. Good Shepherd, guide us in The Way of Your disciples. Lord, we believe, help our unbelief. Teach us to hold tightly to Your truth and not our own. Let us abide in You, that we may bear much fruit and be a blessing to the world around us.**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, the true light that gives light to everyone, came into this world, took on our flesh and dwelt among. God so loved us, that He sent Christ, His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. In Christ, you have nourishment, light, faith, and everlasting salvation. Your sins are forgiven, and you have been richly blessed so that you may proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Walk in this forgiveness as new creatures, born into the light of Christ, able to resist temptation and to serve God and neighbor with your whole heart. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

RESPONSE "The God of Abraham Praise"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:1-7 [ESV]

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL John 8:12-20 [ESV]

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

STATEMENT of FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*

HYMN "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

SERMON "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"The God of Abraham Praise"

arr. Susan E. Geschke

Dona Nobis Pacem Handbells

PRAYERS of the CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: Always and everywhere praise and thanks are due to You, almighty God, through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, by whose perfect obedience and all-sufficient sacrifice we are bold to stand in Your presence, now and in the day of judgment. Therefore, with those who bear Your name on earth and those who praise Your name on high, we join in the everlasting hymn:

SANCTUS

WORDS of INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

Piano

arr. Mark Hayes

“Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart”

Piano

arr. Mark Hayse

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

BENEDICTION

NUNC DIMITTIS

POSTLUDE

“Praise the Lord the Almighty”

Piano

arr. Joel Raney



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