

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

February 19, 2006

The Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

“How Great Thou Art”
Neil Corry, Bass

Carl Gustav Boberg

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

(2 Corinthians 1:18-25)

All the promises of God find their Yes in Christ.
That is why we speak the “Amen” through him, to the glory of God.
But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ,
and has commissioned us.
**God has put the seal of Christ upon us
and given us the Spirit as a guarantee.**

The Prayer of Adoration

God of promise and fulfillment, hear our resounding “Amen” to your glorious deeds. You caused Christ to come to earth as our redeemer and the giver of new life. You sent forth your Holy Spirit to guide us with counsel and might. You commissioned us as your people, sealed by your covenant and empowered by your grace. We laud your manifold deeds of mercy, and say “Amen” to the glory of your holy name. For you alone are worthy of praise, The One Eternal God – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

*The Hymn 466

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*The Prayer of Confession

God of the future, we have made a habit of looking backward to what has been instead of forward to what may yet be. We are so focused on the past that we miss your vital presence with us day by day. We deny you by our neglect, for we have not honored you with our sacrifices, listened for your word or watched for your appearing. We have sinned against you. How can we ask for a word of forgiveness or seek your gracious healing? Yet we must, for we cannot continue the way we are. .
(time for silent confession). . .

*The Choral Response

*The Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news! To us as to others,
Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven.”
**To us as to others, Jesus says,
“Your sins are forgiven.”**
Friends, believe the good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*The Gloria Patri

p. 579 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please exchange this ancient greeting with worshippers seated near you.
Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 43:18-25* p. 823 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter Lesson: Psalm 41* p. 632 in the pew Bible

The Anthem "Set Me As a Seal" David Childs
Jeremy Vaughn, French Horn

The *Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22* p. 218 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn #361 "How Firm a Foundation"

The *Gospel Lesson: Mark 2:1-12* p. 43 in the pew Bible

The Sermon "Freeing the Future"
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

*The *Apostles' Creed* p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering
The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication Doxology, p. 592 in the Hymnal

Eternal God of the covenant, you call us, commission us, and fill us with your Holy Spirit. We gather as Christ's people in response to your call. We seek to be faithful to your commission to make disciples of all nations. Filled with your Spirit, our hearts beat with joy as with our voices we sing you our praise. You are the God of our faith – just, true, and righteous. Accept now our offerings in response to your love, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*The Hymn #424 "O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising"

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Postlude