

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

March 19, 2006

## The Third Sunday In Lent

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

### THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

*"Cantilene"*

L. Delibes

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call to Worship

(from Psalm 19)

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.  
**The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.  
**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

The Prayer of Praise

**O Holy One of Israel, in Christ you call us to dwell in your favor; we gather to praise you and worship your name. You are the rock that keeps us from falling, the redeemer who can save us from sin. You set us upon the sure foundation of your commandments; you cleanse us from all unrighteousness through the gift of your Son. Accept our words as we honor your judgment and be pleased with our worship as we respond to Christ's call. Glory to you O God - Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all. Amen.**

\*The Hymn 285

*"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"*

\*The Prayer of Confession

. . .(time for silent confession). . .

\*The Choral Response

\*The Assurance of Pardon

(from I Corinthians 1)

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,  
**and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.**

And this is the foolishness and weakness of God:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*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.)

Minute for Mission

### TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Exodus 20:1-17*

p. 82 in the pew Bible

The *Epistle* Lesson: *I Corinthians 1:18-25*

p. 202 in the pew Bible

The Anthem	<i>“Drop, Drop Slow Tears”</i>	O. Gibbons
The Gospel Lesson: <i>John 2:13-22</i>	p. 113 in the pew Bible	
Children’s Anthem (11:00 am)	<i>“Get in the Ark!”</i> Carol Choir	S. Clason
A Moment with the Children		
*The Hymn 84	<i>“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”</i>	
The Psalter Lesson: <i>Psalms 19</i>		p. 613 in the pew Bible
The Sermon		“The Heavens Tell” Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

\*The *Affirmation of Faith* from “A Brief Statement of Faith”

**In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God’s commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth,  
exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God’s condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.  
Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.  
Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession The Lord's Prayer		p. 16 in the Hymnal
The Service of Offering The Offertory	<i>“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”</i>	E. Broughton

\*The Doxology and Prayer of DedicationDoxology p. 592 in the Hymnal

**O God of justice and mercy, Your way commands our obedience, Your grace gives us encouragement. We can do nothing apart from the blessings You bestow. Alive with the presence of Your indwelling Spirit, we are bold to offer what we have as signs of our devotion. Accept what we bring, and multiply its effectiveness, for the sake of Jesus, Your gift to us. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME.

\*The Hymn 283

*“God Marked a Line and Told the Sea”*

\*The Charge and Benediction

\*The Postlude

*“Paen”*

G. Young