

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

March 26, 2006

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:30 and 11:00 am

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation.

THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

Meditation on "*There is a Fountain*"
Jubilate Ringers

S. Eithun

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call to Worship

For by grace You have been saved through faith.

And this is not our own doing.

It is the gift of God.

Not because of works, lest anyone should boast,

For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus for good works.

Let us worship God Who prepared those good works beforehand.

The Prayer of Adoration

God of infinite goodness and mercy, we cannot escape your presence. Your promise remains with us in every situation. When we are desolate, your Spirit comes to comfort us. Amid our tribulation, your Chosen One remains our firm hope. We can sing your song in whatever land we find our abode. We shall forever give thanks for the gift of your grace. You are God who never forsakes us. To you be glory and praise now and forever. Amen.

*The Hymn 243

"We Thank You, Lord, for You are Good"

*The Prayer of Confession

*The Choral Response

*The Assurance of Pardon

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world.

But in order that the world might be saved through Him.

By grace we have been saved through faith.

And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God.

Believe the Good News of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia! 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

One Great Hour of Sharing

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Numbers 21:4-9* p. 174 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22* p. 687 in the pew Bible

The Anthem "God So Loved the World" J. Stainer

The *Epistle* Lesson: *Ephesians 2:1-10* p. 235 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 376 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

The *Gospel* Lesson: *John 3:14-21* p. 114 in the pew Bible

The Sermon "Facing Up"
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

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

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

The Service of Offering
The Offertory A Meditation on "An Appalachian Air" G. Martin

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

O God of boundless love, you restore our strength through faith in your goodness. You look with favor upon us, and through Christ redeem us. You take not yourself from us, but promise your presence through the gift of your Spirit. You come from behind to push us, and go before us as our guide. Accept now what we bring you in response to your encompassing care of us, for in Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME.

*The Hymn 76 "My Song Is Love Unknown"

*The Charge and Benediction

God sent Jesus that the world may believe.
God sends us into the world to share that good news.
In Christ, we are not condemned to perish.
Christ came to offer us abundant life.
Let everyone see the light You have received.
Live openly as people enjoying the love of God.
Let those whom God has redeemed say so.
Let us give thanks for God's steadfast love.
We are alive together in Christ Jesus.
God offers to all the gift of eternal life, beginning now.
By grace, we have been saved through faith.
We will live in the light and share good news.

*The Postlude "Short Postlude" G. Martin