

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

January 7, 2007

The Baptism of the Lord

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

(from Psalm 29)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of God's name;
worship the Lord in holy splendor.**
The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
**May the Lord give strength to God's people!
May the Lord bless God's people with peace!**

The Prayer of Adoration

*The Hymn 292

"All Beautiful the March of Days"

*The Prayer of Confession

O God, the waters of faithfulness run deep, and often we have been afraid they will overwhelm us. The fires of your Spirit burn brightly, and we fear we may be consumed if we display too much enthusiasm. We retreat to safe places where we hope to avoid challenges, conflicts, and uncertainty. When we shrink from risks, we miss much that enriches life. We fail to notice your amazing activity among those who respond to your leading. Free us, we pray, for daring service, and in Jesus' name forgive us. . . (time for silent confession). . .

*The Assurance of Pardon

Hear God's words to us ". . . You are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you. . ."
Do not fear, for I am with you."
In Jesus Christ, God has acted to redeem us.
Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!
**We say with penitence, gratitude and joy:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! 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.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 43:1-7*

p. 822 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 29* p. 621 in the pew Bible

The Anthem "God is Love" Van Denman Thompson

The New Testament Lesson: *Acts 8:14-17* p. 153 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 70 "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

The Gospel Lesson: *Luke 3:15-17,21-22* p. 73 in the pew Bible

The Meditation "Name Calling"
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

*The *Nicene Creed* p. 15 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of Intercession and Dedication

The Service of Offering
Offertory

TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT. . .

*The Hymn of Preparation 326 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

The Invitation

The Call To Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

. . .who forever sing to the glory of Your name,
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and Might,
Heaven and Earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. . .
. . .Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. . .

The Lord's Prayer p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Communion
(You are invited to partake of the elements as you receive them with reverent meditation.)

The Prayer After Communion

We give You thanks for Jesus' baptism, O God of Life Eternal, by which he has marked to seek us out for redemption. We give You thanks for our baptism, through which the Holy Spirit makes us part of Christ's Body, the church, and renews us for Your service. We bless You for this holy meal and give You thanks that You have commissioned Your church to go into all the world to baptize disciples in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME.

*The Closing Hymn 300 "Down to Earth, as a Dove"

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Postlude