

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 6, 2007

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

"With a Joyful Heart"
Jubilate Ringers

Susan E. Geschke

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

Let everything that has being praise the name of the Lord!

**Mountains and hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
shall praise the name of the Lord.**

Young men and women alike, old and young together,
shall praise the name of the Lord.

**We shall praise Your name, O God,
for Your glory is above earth and heaven.**

(from *Psalms 148*)

The Prayer of Adoration

O God, You fulfill the desire of all who call upon You. We gather to worship and praise Your name. You uphold those who are falling and raise up those who are bowed down. You are faithful in words, gracious in deeds, just in all ways, and kind in all that You do. Your dominion shall endure forever. With our mouths we will give You blessing and honor. All praise be to You, O Eternal God – Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

*The Hymn 111

"Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!"

*The Prayer of Confession

We confess, our God, that we look for You, but we do not see. The reflection of Your glory in our lives is dim because our hearts are heavy with doubt and fear. Our minds are cluttered with the wisdom of the world that insists seeing is believing. Our vision is distorted by focusing too long on that which is dark and destructive. We have fallen away from You. We have not cared properly for ourselves, or those whom You call us to serve. We ask Your forgiveness in Jesus' name. . .(time for silent confession). . .

*The Choral Response

*The Assurance of Pardon

God has given even to us the repentance that leads to life.

Praise God.

New life in Christ begins here:

By Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we are forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

*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 New Testament Lesson: *Acts 11:1-18* p. 158 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 148* p. 716 in the pew Bible

The Anthem "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" Dale Grotenhuis

The *Epistle* Lesson: *Revelation 21:1-6* p. 315 in the pew Bible

A Moment with the Children

*The Hymn 436 (8:30 am) "We Are Your People"

The Reception of New Members (11:00 am)

Questions of Membership

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

*The Prayer of Reception

O God our one true Parent: We praise you for calling us to be a servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our number brothers and sisters in faith. Together, may we live in your Spirit, and so love one another, that we may have the mind of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn of Reception

**Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.**

The *Gospel* Lesson: *John 13:31-35* p. 132 in the pew Bible

The Sermon "Love On a Mission"
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*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 Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory "Adagio" Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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

Living God, Who made heaven, earth, and the sea and all that is in them, we praise You for rains and fruitful seasons. You satisfy our hearts with food and gladness. Through Christ You call us to walk in Your ways. We offer our gifts as leaven, to spread the Good News of Christ, the Bread of Life. We renew our commitment to serve You gladly and to love one another as You first loved us. In the most loving name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME.

*The Hymn 434 "Today We Are Called to be Disciples"

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Postlude "Basse et dessus de trompette" Louis-Nicolas Clerambault