

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 20, 2007

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 97*)

God rules over all creation,
let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!
**The heavens proclaim God's righteousness;
and all the people behold God's glory.**
For You, O God, are most high over all the earth;
You are exalted far above all gods.
**Let us rejoice in the Lord
and give thanks to God's holy name!**

The Prayer of Adoration

O Christ, You are the bright and morning star. You herald the dawn before we awaken. We fall asleep awaiting Your ascent over the eastern horizon; yet all the night long, without our knowing, Your light is rising within our hearts. It is time! Rouse us from our slumber, open the eyes of our souls, that, seeing You as never before, we might rejoice exceedingly with great joy. Amen.

*The Hymn 155

"Rejoice, the Lord is King"

*The Prayer of Confession

Enslaved to sin, we cannot see the lives we lead, God of Glory. Each day, and every day, there are those times when we ignore You and Your dreams for us. Each week, and every week, we find the time to ridicule others, when we could have affirmed them. Each moment, and every moment, though we do not want to admit it, we seek our own way rather than skipping down Your path of joy and obedience. Forgive us for our foolish lives, Eternal God. Deliver us, and break the chains of sin and death which hold us captive. . .(time for silent confession). . .

*The Choral Response

*The Litanies of Pardon

(from *Revelation 22*)

Christ is the Alpha and the Omega,
the first and the last, the beginning and the end.
The grace of Christ be with all the saints.
Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have
the right to the tree of life and enter the city by the gates.
The grace of Christ be with all the saints.
Jesus is the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.
The grace of Christ be with all the saints.
Let whoever hears say, "Come"; let whoever is thirsty come,
let whoever desires take the water of life without price.
The grace of Christ be with all the saints.
Jesus testifies to all these things and says, "Surely I am
coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
The grace of Christ be with all the saints.
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.)

The Minute for Mission

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The New Testament Lesson: *Acts 16:16-34*

p. 166 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 97*

p. 677 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

The Epistle Lesson: *Rev. 22:12-14,16-17,20-21*

p. 316 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 411

“Arise, Your Light is Come!”

The Gospel Lesson: *John 17:20-26*

p. 136 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

“Prison Ministry”
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD. . .

*The *Apostles’ Creed*

p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Offertory

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

O righteous God, we have heard Your Word, how we ought to obey You; we have confessed our faith in Christ our Savior. Full of Your Spirit, we come now bringing our offerings; they symbolize our thanksgiving and reflect our commitment. Accept them and use them to spread the good news of salvation over all the earth. In the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD’S NAME.

*The Hymn 471

“O Praise the Gracious Power”

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Postlude