

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

September 9, 2007

The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

*“Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord”*

teven Rickards

The Call To Worship

(from *Psalm 139*)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up.

**You discern my thoughts from far away.**

**You search my path and my lying down,**

**And are acquainted with all my ways.**

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

**I try to count them — they are more than the sand,**

**I come to the end — I am still with you.**

The Prayer of Adoration

\*The Hymn 288

*“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”*

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Awesome God, we confess that we have become slaves to our own narrow self-interest. We pay more attention to our possessions than to You. We try to hide from Your all-seeing eye, for we are guilty of devotion to false gods. We are attracted to wicked advice and sinful pursuits that direct our steps away from You. So often we act without thinking or planning or consulting with You. O God, show us the way to a better life. In Your mercy forgive us our sins. . . (time for silent confession). . .**

\*The Choral Response

\*The Assurance of Pardon

God is just and takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

**Through Christ there is hope of eternal forgiveness.**

Turn back from your past and embrace God’s promised assurance.

**In Christ there is redemption and release from all sin.**

**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.)

## TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Jeremiah 18:1-11*

p. 881 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 139:1-6,13-18*

p. 710 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

*“Forever Blest is He”*

George F. Handel

The Epistle Lesson: *Philemon 1-21*

p. 263 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

Dedication of Choirs, Musicians and Dancers

\*The Hymn 264

*“When in Our Music God is Glorified”*

The Gospel Lesson: *Luke 14:25-33*

p. 94 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

*“Value Blinds and Binds”*  
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD. . .

\*The Affirmation of Faith

from *“The Book of Common Worship”*  
( *Philippians 2:5-11*)

**Christ Jesus,  
though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death –  
even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:  
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

The Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

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

**God of grace and peace, we come as free agents of Christ’s reconciling love. We give our lives as a thank offering for the bountiful mercies You bestow on us. You refresh our hearts by the gift of a savior. May what we bring enrich others who seek Your deliverance. Take us and use us as stewards of Your grace and peace. Through Christ our Sovereign and Savior we pray. Amen.**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD’S NAME.

\*The Hymn 371

*“Lift High the Cross”*

\*The Charge & Benediction

\*Postlude