

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 16, 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

We rejoice, O God, that You call us to this place to sing Your praise and offer our lives.

For You have searched for us and found us, You rejoice in our salvation.

You strengthen us and call us to serve, You have appointed us to service in Christ.

**To the Ruler of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Great and wonderful are all Your works, O God; majestic is Your name. Unto the ends of the earth You display Your dominion. Beyond the reaches of the heavens Your glory shines. Hear the praises we offer as we gather to worship. Receive the confession we make through your mercy and grace. As we open Your Word, we discern Your goodness. Your way is holy, great God of all, and to you is due all glory and honor, praise and adoration. Amen.

*The Hymn 263

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*The Prayer of Confession

We have been fools. We have said in our hearts, “There is no God.” Too often our deeds deny You; our plans do not include You. We grumble and complain, criticizing those who embody Your love for all people. We have turned aside from the way You commanded. Our greed is robbing this fruitful land and creating a desert. The world is full of suffering people whom we ignore. O God, in Your mercy, forgive us. . . (time for silent confession) . . .

*The Choral Response

*The Assurance of Pardon

(1 Timothy 1:15; Romans 8:34)

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

I declare to You, in the name of 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.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28*

p. 859 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 14*

p. 609 in the pew Bible

The Gospel Lesson: *Luke 15:1-10*

p. 95 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

"Amazing Grace"

Lee Turner, arr.

A Moment With the Children

Dedication of Teachers

*The Hymn 144

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!"

The Epistle Lesson: *1 Tim. 1:12-17*

p. 253 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

"Returning to Ground Zero"
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 Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

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

Merciful God, whose love is so strong You will not that any of your flock might be lost, we thank You for Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, who came looking to find Your wandering people. Let those who know themselves found in Christ rejoice and always be thankful. We offer what we have, and ourselves, in praise of Your faithfulness. Accept our gifts as signs of our commitment to love You more fully, and receive our response in obedience as a symbol of our dedication to serve after the example of Christ Jesus our Sovereign, Savior and Friend. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME.

*The Hymn 342

"By Gracious Powers"

*The Charge & Benediction

*Postlude