

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 20, 2008

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

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

The Call To Worship

(from Psalm 40)

When I waited patiently for you, O God, you bent down to me and heard my cry.

You put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;

I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

**Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; let your
steadfast love and faithfulness keep me safe forever.**

The Prayer of Praise

You have called us before we were born, O God, and named us in our mother’s womb. You have made our mouths like sharp swords, and hid us in the shadow of your hand. You have made us polished arrows and kept us safe in Your quiver. In Christ You have called us to be Your servants, to be a light to the nations, and to herald Your goodness to all. Now our heads are lifted up and we will offer You our sacrifices with shouts of joy. All praise be to You, Eternal God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Friend. Amen.

*The Hymn 263

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have received Your call but have failed to faithfully respond. You have called us to be a servant to the nations, but we have been preoccupied with our own salvation. You have given us a ministry to all people, but we have remained focused on ourselves. You called us to share our goods with the world, but we have gathered more for our own use. You directed us to declare Your mercy to the nations, but we have sought to bend the nations to our will. You have made us a servant, but we have acted as if we were in charge. Cleanse us, God. Forgive us. Redeem us and grant us your mercy...(time for silent confession).

*The Choral Response

*The Assurance of Pardon

(from I Cor. 1)

Grace and peace is given to you in Jesus Christ.

All who call upon His name the Lord claims as His own.

God will keep you firm to the end,

without reproach on the Day of our Lord Jesus!

It is God Who called us to share in the life of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

God keeps faith and forgives our sin.

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: *Isaiah 49:1-7* p. 830 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 40:1-11* p. 631 in the pew Bible

The Anthem "Who Is The One We Love the Most" Carl Schalk

The Epistle Lesson: *1 Corinthians 1:1-9* p. 201 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 940 "In Christ There is No East or West"

The Gospel Lesson: *John 1:29-42* p. 112 in the pew Bible

The Sermon "Getting Personal"
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

As the Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world, we remember that we are baptized as a sign of new life. Accept these gifts, O God, which we offer as we recommit ourselves to ministry in Christ's name. May Your Spirit empower us for the tasks that await, and the waters refresh us as we go forth to serve. We return and share what you have given in Jesus' name. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME.

*The Hymn 371 "Lift High the Cross"

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude