

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 2, 2008

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

“Priere a Notre-Dame”

L. Boellmann

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

With the Good Shepherd as our guide, we shall want for nothing.

God leads us along peaceful paths, restoring our souls.

Even in the shadow of death, we fear no evil.

For the Good Shepherd walks with us day and night.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow all the days of our lives.

We shall dwell in the house of the Holy God all our life long.

Prayer of Adoration

Generous Provider, You pour out such great blessings that our cup runs over. You touch us with the oil of gladness and make our faces shine with Joy. We give thanks to You and worship You with ever-deepening appreciation. Glory be to You, Light-above-us, Light-within-us, Light of the world. Amen.

*The Hymn 276

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

*The Prayer of Confession

God of clarity, show us the places where we choose confusion over transparency, and open our hearts in repentance. Awaken us to the times when we prefer illusion to truth, and open our hearts in repentance. Shed light on the ways in which we choose an easy sin over a harder faithfulness, and open our hearts in repentance. Enlighten us when we would prefer to close our eyes to the pain, the need, the oppression, and the injustice that multiply unchecked when Your people are content with apathy. We ask Your forgiveness in the name of the one who was Light incarnate. Amen. . . . (time for silent confession). . .

The Choral Response

“Angels Watching Over Me”

Shawn Berry, arr.

Covenant Choir

*The Assurance of Pardon

*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: *1 Samuel 16:1-13* p. 322 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 23* p. 617 in the pew Bible

The Anthem "Lamb of God" F. Melius Christiansen
The Epistle Lesson: *Ephesians 5:8-14* p. 237 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 411 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

The Gospel Lesson: *John 9:1-41* p. 125 in the pew Bible

The Sermon "Photosynthesis"
Patrick Dennis

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 "Father, We Thank Thee" L. Bourgeois

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

Restoring God, Your hand touches all the wounds of fear within us and all Your people, inviting all into healthy confidence in Your abundance and holy generosity. Accept these our offerings. Bless both those who give and those who receive, that all creation may share the vision of Your bounteous realm. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME .

*The Hymn 280 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude "Suite Gothique Choral" L. Boellmann