

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2008

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

“’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”
Jubilate Ringers

Kirkpatrick/Geschke

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

From the deepest places in our lives we cry to God,
God, hear my voice, do not be far from me.
Let us not forget God’s steadfast love and power to redeem.
We wait for God, and in God’s Word we find hope.

The Prayer of Adoration

You are merciful and just in the deliverance of Your people, O God. You draw us up out of the depths of distress; You incline Your ear as we call on Your name. Our souls rest in You and in the promise of Christ’s redeeming love. Lay now Your hand upon us, and draw us out by Your Spirit, that we may sing praises to Your name. Glory to You O God – our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

*The Hymn 356

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*The Prayer of Confession

Your Spirit calls us out of ourselves, O God, and makes Your place within us. We resist. We box ourselves in. We live empty. You claim us for Yourself; we claim to belong to no one but ourselves. Our bodies move and breathe and we believe we are alive; but our spirits die before we are dead. Except Your Spirit enlivens us, we cannot repent and believe. In Your great mercy, forgive us our shallow faith, our timid hope, our feeble witness to Your awesome love in Christ. . . (time for silent confession). . .

*The Choral Response

*The Assurance of Pardon

God is gracious, righteous, and merciful.
God delivers us from death, dries our tears, keeps us from stumbling.
Believe the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

The Psalter Lesson: *Psalms 130*

p. 987 in the pew Bible

p. 705 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

“Holy is the Lord”

Maxcine Posegate

The Epistle Lesson: *Romans 8:6-11*

p. 191 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 313
The Gospel Lesson: *John 11:1-45*

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

p. 127 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

“Even Now”
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD. . .

*The *Affirmation of Faith*

from *“A Brief Statement of Faith”*

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for
God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession
The Lord’s Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering
The Offertory

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

**O God, as Jesus released Lazarus from the hands of death, may our ministry give to others the
promise of new life. Accept the gifts that we offer to proclaim Your love. Use our talents in ways that
will set others free. May the liberating truth of Christ’s gospel be heard anew in the land. In Jesus’
name we pray. Amen.**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD’S NAME .

*The Hymn 427 *“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”*

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude