

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

April 24, 2005

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

*All who are able may stand.

Bold type spoken by the congregation

THE PEOPLE GATHER. . .

The Prelude

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

“My Soul Thirsteth for Thee”

Daniel Burton

The Call To Worship

Welcome to the living stone, the source of life.

God is a Rock of Refuge for us, a strong Fortress to save us.

Look! God has set a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor.

We will trust in this Foundation Stone.

We will never have cause to regret it.

Present yourselves as building stones

for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life.

We have come to offer ourselves to You, O Rock of Refuge.

*The Hymn 464

“Joyful, Joyful”

*The Prayer of Confession

Almighty and eternal God, our hearts are troubled by our own undoing. We are quick to throw stones at others, blaming someone else for our unhappiness. We don't act like your chosen people, those who have heard and seen and tasted the good news of your love. Too often our lives and relationships reflect the sourness of resentment, jealousy and fear. Forgive us our lack of enthusiasm in our faith. Through Christ our strength and our redeemer, forgive us our sins...(time for silent confession)...

*The Choral Response

“Oh My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer”

“Stuttgart”

*The Assurance of Pardon

(I Peter 2:10)

Once we were no people,
but now we are God's people;
Once we had not received mercy,
but now we have received mercy;
Once none of us knew forgiveness,
but now each of us may declare:
In 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 *New Testament* Lesson: *Acts 7:55-60* p. 952 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 31:1-5,15-16* p. 479 in the pew Bible

The Anthem "Joy in the Morning" Natalie Sleeth

The *Epistle* Lesson: *1 Peter 2:2-10* p. 1058 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 361 "How Firm a Foundation"

Reception of New Members (11:00)

Questions of Membership

*The *Apostles' Creed* p. 14 in the Hymnal

Hymn

**Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.**

The *Gospel* Lesson: *John 14:1-14* p. 938 in the pew Bible

The Sermon "Tying Up Loose Ends"
The Rev. Terry N. Diebold

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

*The *Apostles' Creed* (8:30) p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering

The Offertory

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

GO IN GOD'S NAME. . .

*The Hymn 339 "Be Thou My Vision"

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude