

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

May 8, 2005

The Seventh 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

*"Dawning"*

Charles Gounod

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

(from *Psalm 68*)

Let the righteous be joyful;  
let them exult before God;

**let them be jubilant with joy.**

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;

**Lift up a song to God Who rides upon the clouds;  
Whose name is the Most High, be exultant before God.**

Guardian of orphans and protector of widows  
is God in God's holy habitation.

**Sing to God, O nations of the earth;  
Sing praises to God.**

The Prayer of Adoration

**Eternal God, by raising Jesus from the dead You proclaimed His victory, and by His ascension, You declared Him Lord of all. We worship You in praise and adoration for Your matchless gift in Christ Jesus. By Your grace, now lift our hearts to heaven where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*The Hymn 144

*"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!"*

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God, You have sent the Holy Spirit to instruct, guide and empower us in our ministry, but we try to get by on our own strength. You invite us to see with the eyes of faith, so that we can know Your power at work in the world, yet we look at the confusion around us, and know only despair. You have promised us a glorious inheritance in the resurrection. Still, we live as though we had no hope. .**  
(time for silent confession). . .

\*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 Gospel Lesson: *John 17:1-11*

p. 938 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Ps. 68:1-10, 32-35* p. 500 in the pew Bible

The Anthem “*And the Father Will Dance*” Mark Hayes

The *Epistle* Lesson: *1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11* p. 1058 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

\*Hymn 555 “*Now Thank We All Our God*”

The Ordination and Installation of Elders (11:00 am – see insert)

The *New Testament* Lesson: *Acts 1:6-14* p. 947 in the pew Bible

The Sermon “*Moving Our Gaze*”  
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

\*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 “*Meditation*” Ben Logan

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

**O God, Who has blessed us so generously, through Your grace may our gifts this day reach far and wide. As You accept our gifts, may repentance be proclaimed in many places, may eyes be opened to hope, may families be reconciled, may hunger and suffering be diminished. We are grateful for all of the ways You will use what we offer up to You today. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME. . .

\*The Hymn 443 “*O Christ, the Great Foundation*”

\*The Charge & Benediction

The reign of God is being restored among us.  
The Holy Spirit is coming to empower us.  
**We are together in awe before God.**  
**Now we carry our worship into our work.**  
God cares for us and supports us day by day.  
In all we do and say, God is present.  
**We see God's power in the skies.**  
**We realize the power of God's love within.**  
Go now to share that love to strengthen others.  
Trust God and be alert to life's possibilities.  
**God dwells among us and unites us in Christ.**  
**In this faith is our deepest joy.**

\*The Postlude “*Jubilee*” Gilbert Martin