

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

July 10, 2005

The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

8:30 and 10:00 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 Lord, What a Morning”

arr. H. T. Burleigh

The Call To Worship

Accept our offering of praise, O God.

God’s word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

Accept our offering of praise.

O God, give us life according to your word.

Your word is the joy of our hearts.

God hears us and holds us in this time of worship.

Let us approach God in prayer.

The Prayer of Adoration

Great God of limitless love, no people are alien to Your purpose; no time or place is strange in Your light. Your goodness toward us all is boundless; Your grace immeasurable; Your care for Your whole creation ceaseless. You tirelessly gather people from the ends of the earth. Infinite praise is Yours, O God, and eternal glory. Amen.

*The Hymn 263

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*The Prayer of Confession

Loving God of truth and justice, we confess that being faithful to you often means disturbing the status quo. We are reluctant to do that. We long to do your will and yet we fall short of it. We strive to do the right thing and yet we find ourselves in conflict with others. We would rather compete with each other rather than work together. Give us courage to trust in you and in your mercy, forgive us our sins. . .(time for silent confession). . .

*The Choral Response

*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: *Genesis 25:19-34*

p. 20 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 119:105-112*

p. 532 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

“Every Valley Shall Be Exalted”

G. F. Handel

Roy Jarnecke, Soloist

The *Epistle* Lesson: *Romans 8:1-11*

p. 982 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

*Hymn 454 *"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"*

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

p. 846 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

"Thorny Issues"
The Rev. Terry N. Diebold

AND TO MAKE PROPER RESPONSE. . .

*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 *"Steal Away"*

arr. H. T. Burleigh

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Doxology, p. 592 in the Hymnal

As you delivered Rebekah so also you fill our lives with your blessings, Eternal God. Send us in Christ's name into the world to sow your seeds of righteousness and peace. We offer ourselves to your service with the prayer that we become receptive to your command. Nourish us with the gift of your Spirit that we may grow more pleasing in your sight. We pray that the fruit of our faith shall lead others to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME.

*The Hymn 540 *“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”*

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude