

# A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 12, 2004

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

\*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

### GATHERING

The Prelude

*“Praise the Lord”*

Handel/Hopson

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

The Call To Worship

We rejoice, O God, that you call us to this place to sing your praise and offer our lives.

**For you have searched for us and found us, you rejoice in our salvation.**

You strengthen us and call us to serve, you have appointed us to service in Christ.

**To the Ruler of the ages, immortal, invisible, The only God,  
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer of Praise and Adoration

**Great and wonderful are all your works, O God; majestic is your name. Unto the ends of the earth you display your dominion. Beyond the reaches of the heavens your glory shines. Hear the praises we offer as we gather to worship. Receive the confession we make through your mercy and grace. As we open your Word, we discern your goodness. Your way is holy, great God of all, and to you is due all glory and honor, praise and adoration. Amen.**

\*The Hymn 481

*“Praise the Lord, God’s Glories Show”*

\*The Prayer of Confession

**We have been fools. We have said in our hearts, “There is no God.” Too often our deeds deny you; our plans do not include you. We grumble and complain, criticizing those who embody your love for all people. We have turned aside from the way you commanded. Our greed is robbing this fruitful land and creating a desert. The world is full of suffering people whom we ignore. O God, in your mercy, forgive us...*(time for silent confession)*...**

\*The Choral Response

\*The Assurance of Pardon

(1 Timothy 1:15; Romans 8:34)

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
**that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**

Who is in a position to condemn?

**Only Christ, and Christ died for us,  
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.**

I declare to You, in the name of 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.)

Moment for Mission

Linda Baer

### HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The Prayer for Illumination

The *Old Testament* Lesson: Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 14*

p. 470 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

*“Amazing Grace”*

Lee Turner, arr.

The *Epistle* Lesson: *1 Tim. 1:12-17*

p. 1034 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

\*The Hymn 263 (8:30 a.m.)

*“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*

The *Sacrament of Baptism* (11:00 a.m.)

p. 14 in the Hymnal

\*The *Apostles’ Creed*

The Baptism

The Welcome

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ’s church  
to share with us in His ministry for we are all one in Christ.**

\*The Hymn 498

*“Child of Blessing”*

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Luke 15:1-10*

p. 908 in the pew Bible

The Sermon

*“What God Desires”*  
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

\*The *Apostles’ Creed* (8:30 a.m.)

p. 14 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of the People  
The Lord's Prayer

p. 16 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering  
The Gathering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

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

**Because we have been blessed by you, O God, we are delighted to share. Because there are many who do not enjoy your bounty, we search for ways to help them. Thank you for showing us the way of mercy and patient example, the way of generosity and self-forgetful service, the way of faithfulness and joyous celebration. Bless us and our offerings, for in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

\*The Hymn 342

*“By Gracious Powers”*

\*The Charge & Benediction

\*Postlude