

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

September 18, 2005

The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

The Call To Worship

Our ancestors in faith, when they were in Egypt,
did not consider Your wonderful works,
God of deliverance.

**They did not remember the abundance
of Your steadfast love;**

Yet they were saved for the sake of God's name.

**They were saved to make known
God's mighty power.**

**Let us worship God and make known
the power of the Most High.**

The Prayer of Adoration

With what praise may we praise You, God of steadfast love and deliverance? You are faithful when we praise idols and turn faithless. You do wondrous things for Your people, beyond our knowing and beyond our praising. We praise You for what we know. We would know more that our praises might grow. Thanks be to you O God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Hymn 491

“Stand Up and Bless the Lord”

*The Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we are like the Israelites in our quickness to complain. We grumble when we are hungry and thirsty, not only for daily food, but for spiritual nurture as well. We complain when our homes seem inadequate and fail to realize that our shelter is more than adequate. We are always searching for more. We are quick to feel that life is unfair to us and complain that others have more than we do. So often we routinely pass by the homeless, the poor, the hungry, the hurting. Forgive us our blindness to others...(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. . .

Ghana Delegation Report

The Prayer for Illumination

Help us to stand firm in one spirit, O God of Life. Silence in us all other voices but Your own. Open our hearts and lives, that we may strive side by side to be Your faithful disciples. Speak to us through Your Word in scripture, sermon and song as we bless You for the privilege of following and trusting in Christ. Amen.

The *Old Testament* Lesson: *Exodus 16:2-15* p. 59 in the pew Bible

The *Psalter* Lesson: *Psalms 105:1-6,37-45* p. 523 in the pew Bible

The Anthem "Abide, O Dearest Jesus" Melchior Vulpius

The *Gospel* Lesson: *Matthew 20:1-16* p. 854 in the pew Bible

A Moment With the Children

Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders

*The Hymn 425 "Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining"

The *Epistle* Lesson: *Philippians 1:21-30* p. 1022 in the pew Bible

The Sermon "With Christ in Life and Death"
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

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

O God, You give us tasks to perform. You equip us with strengths and abilities beyond what we deserve. In Christ You call us to faithfulness, to exercise obedience, to be deliberate in our discipline. We come now offering to You the results of our labors. Use them as a means to further Your work in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME.

*The Hymn 418 "God, Bless Your Church with Strength!"

*The Charge & Benediction

*The Postlude