ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

April 22, 2018
Season of Eastertide
What truly matters at church is what matters to God, and what matters to God is the continual gathering of new people into His flock. The entire Bible traces the journey from the original creation to new creation, from humanity’s great rebellion against the Creator to God’s even greater provision of redemption in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The story of the Bible is therefore the story of God’s mission to bring sinful humanity back into communion with Himself.

However, an important question we must ask for those whom God has called into a saving, covenant relationship with Himself is, “what now?” Are we meant to sit on the sidelines and wait for Jesus to finish His mission? To that question, the Bible answers with a resounding “no!” God in His wisdom and grace chooses to dignify His people by calling them into His mission.

As we have seen in the book of Acts, after Jesus ascended, God gave the Spirit into communion with Himself! The earth has yielded its increase; let the nations praise You, O God; and guide the nations upon earth. The grass withers, the flower fades, yet we often ignore the needy, and reject those who seem different from us. Yet we confess that our hearts toward You have often been divided from You and each other are torn down. For in King Jesus the barriers which have separated us will be broken down, and we will be reconciled with one another as we all are truly one in Christ. In Your mercy, move us in haste to the day when we all are truly one in Christ.

Let us now joyfully worship the Lord who has made us a part of His flock and calls us to labor with Him in His mission of redemption!
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!
The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

†DOXOLOGY .................................................. PICARDY

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son, laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One: one in love, and one in splendor, while eternal ages run.

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

8:15 a.m.
Stewart Fair Fisher, born January 30, 2018, son of Emily and Andrew Fisher

11:00 a.m.
Andrew Yancey Green, born January 22, 2018, son of Sara and Justin Green
James Bailey Allen, born December 21, 2017, son of Sara and Daniel Allen
Harry Wellford Fletcher, born June 21, 2017, son of Liza and Richie Fletcher
Cora Reece Blocker, born July 8, 2017, daughter of Gray and Tyler Blocker
Nathaniel Quinn Shappley, born June 15, 2017, son of Rebekah and Rusty Shappley

SONG OF ENCOURAGEMENT: “Jesus Loves You” .................... JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves you, this we know, for the Bible tells us so;
Little ones to Him belong, you are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves you! Yes, Jesus loves you!
Yes, Jesus loves you! The Bible tells us so.

Receiving the Grace of God

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the nations, we praise You!
For in King Jesus the barriers which have separated us from You and each other are torn down.
Yet we confess that our hearts toward You have often been divided and we have been slow to open our hearts and minds to people of other lands, tongues, and ethnicities.
Jesus sat with outcasts and sinners like us, yet we often ignore the needy, show indifference to the lonely, and reject those who seem different from us.
Forgive us, we pray.
Stir up our affections for You and our neighbor.
Deliver us from fear and prejudice.
Empower us to reach out to others in love
as we have been loved by You.
In Your mercy, move us in haste to the day
when we all are truly one in Christ.
We pray this in His holy name.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON.................. Ephesians 1:7
In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD ............... Michael G. Stokke

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “The Majesty and Glory of Your Name” ........ Tom Fettke
When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers;
The moon and stars suspended in space.
Oh, what is man that you are mindful of him?
You have given man a crown of glory and honor,
And have made him a little lower than the angels.
You have put him in charge of all creation: beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea.
But, what is man? Oh, what is man that you are mindful of him?
O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of your name
Transcend the earth and fills the heavens.
O Lord, our God, little children praise You perfectly, and so would we.
And so would we. Alleluia! Alleluia! The majesty and glory of Your name.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

†GREETINGS
A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15) ....................... Lynn L. Erickson

ANSWERING THE CALL OF GOD

†PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (please stand)
Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

†HYMN OF PREPARATION: No. 621 “Sometimes a Light Surprises” ........... BENTLEY

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON................................. Acts 10:1-23
All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;
The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen.  (Isaiah 40:6b, 8)

SERMON  Discerning God’s Call, Part 1  George W. Robertson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT
Discerning God’s Call, Part 1 | George Robertson

April 22, 2018

I. We Must Tune Our Senses to Understand by the Means of Grace. (Acts 10:1-4, 9)

A. Word

B. Prayer

C. Ministry

II. We Must Humble our Wills to Obey by Trusting Him. (Acts 10:5-23)

A. Incomplete Details

B. Fear