

# THE DIVINE SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL

**The Lord's Day, January 13, 2008**

*The Season of Epiphany*

†Preparation for Worship: *Psalm 40*

\*Prelude & Organ – Mrs. Tracy Dickinson

## **God Calls Us into His Presence**

### **Silent Prayer & Preparation**

✕Call to Worship: *Psalm 40:1-3*

**Pastor:** *I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.*

✕Trinity Hymnal: #101

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

✕Salutation & Responsive Scriptures: *Ruth 2:4; Ps. 40:4a*

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**Amen!**

The Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

He put a new song in my mouth,

**A song of praise to our God!**

✕Prayer of Adoration

**People:** *Glory be to you, O Father everlasting, who did send Your only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Glory be to You, O Lord Jesus Christ, who has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.*

*Glory be to You, O Holy Spirit, who did unite us together with Christ, and has shed abroad His love in our hearts. Blessed be You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God; and blessed be Your glorious name forever. Amen!*

## **God Graciously Renews Us in Christ**

**Corporate Confession of Sins:**

*Trinity Hymnal #150 (Stanzas 1 & 6)*

*The law of God is good and wise and sets his will before our eyes,  
Shows us the way of righteousness, and dooms to death when we transgress.*

*To Jesus we for refuge flee, who from the curse has set us free,  
And humbly worship at his throne, saved by his grace through faith alone.*

**Pastor:** Beloved in Christ let us humbly bow our heads and confess our sins to the Lord our God:

**Almighty God, Father of Glory, You sent your Son Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for righteousness, truth, and justice. I confess that in my sin and pride I hide from the brightness of His light, and I do not practice righteousness, love truth, or seek justice. Forgive me of my sinful dark heart; in your mercy, cleanse me of all my pride and rebellion; grant to me the assurance of salvation; cause your Holy Spirit to work in me that, forgiven and renewed, I may faithfully show forth your glory that shines in the face of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.**

**Silent Confession of Sin: Congregational Amen!**

**Chorus:** *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy Salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.*

**xGod Forgives Us in Christ:**

Pastor: Arise, lift up your heads! Stand and hear the good news...!

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**It is proper and right to do so.**

Truly it is good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and arch angels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing...

**xTrinity Hymnal: #286**

“Worship Christ, the Risen King!”

**God Instructs Us with His Word**

**A Reading From Solomon’s Wisdom:**

*Joshua 7:16-26*

**Ecclesiastes 1:10-18** <sup>10</sup> Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us. <sup>11</sup> There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after. <sup>12</sup> I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. <sup>14</sup> I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. <sup>15</sup> What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted. <sup>16</sup> I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." <sup>17</sup> And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. <sup>18</sup> For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**A Reading From Matthew’s Gospel:**

*Matthew 3:13-17*

**Matthew 3:13-17** <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be

baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

### **xWe Confess Our Faith:**

#### *The Nicene Creed*

*We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds:  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made:  
who for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the  
dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;*

*who spoke by the prophets.  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

**xA Reading From James's Letters:**

*James 1:9-18*

**James 1:9-18** <sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. <sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creation.

**Sermon: An Exposition of the James's Letters:**

*James 1:9-18*

*"No Variation or Shadow"*

**xTrinity Hymnal: #598**

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

**God Feeds Us at His Table**

**We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings**

x***Gloria Patri*** (Hymn #735)

x**Memorial Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer**

**The Words of Institution**

**The Distribution of the Bread and Wine**

## **God Blesses Us and Sends Us Out**

x**Trinity Hymnal: #635**      “How Good It Is to Thank the Lord”

x**Benediction & Response:**

Hymn #11 (Tune #105)

*Now blessed be the Lord our God, the God of Israel,  
For he alone doth wondrous works in glory that excel.  
And blessed be his glorious Name to all eternity:  
The whole earth let his glory fill. Amen, so let it be.*

**Announcements & Prayer Requests**

**Postlude & Greet One Another!**