

Sunday morning, of course, we gathered for the Sunday service. The hall St. John EOC is renting and using for worship is rather small, and that day it was packed out with over 100 people. There were 3 adult choirs and the children's choir that sang at different times. Early in the service the people sang "O Lord Open My Lips," the song that Lasse Lagerquist from Sweden wrote. What a blessing it was to hear a song from Sweden sung in English by Africans! Somehow in that moment the EOC didn't seem so geographically scattered!



After the pre-service, I did the baptisms and chrismations. There ended up being 8 of each including adults and children. It was especially a rich blessing to baptize the Muslim man and his children. He was so grateful. Baptisms there have to be very simple. As the Didache says, we are to do them in running water - such as a river if possible. If not, we do them however we can, at the very least pouring water over the head three times in the name of the Trinity, which is how we have to do it in Africa. So I had

them kneel down, bend forward and put their heads over the basin of previously sanctified water, then scoop up water in my hands and pour it over their heads three times. After drying them off with a white towel, the same white towel is used to wrap around them and symbolize that they have been clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Very simple, but God is just as present to receive them and transfer them into His glorious Kingdom.



I gave the homily again, tying the theme of the day - Trinity Sunday - into practical life issues. Then the two deacon ordinations were done. That also was such a blessing, for as I said, these are two worthy men. It was such a thrill to see their own expressions of celebration and gratitude when, after the ordination prayers and vesting, I presented them to the people as new deacons. The People had no problem issuing hearty cries of "Worthy!"

