



May 7, 2023

Confirmation Sunday

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“How Firm a Foundation”

- ♪ How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- ♪ “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.
- ♪ “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!
- ♪ “When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
- ♪ “Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 728-Text: A Selection of Hymns, London 1787; Tune: Genuine Church Music, Winchester 1832;
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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54b–57

Confession and Absolution

Though Christ is our cornerstone and has changed our identity to be His chosen people, we often build upon things other than Jesus. Such building crumbles to the ground, for unless we build on Christ, we labor in vain. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness. *A Time of Silence*

Heavenly Father,

Even though we are Your chosen people, we have acted in accordance with the world rather than Your Word. We have proclaimed hatred and violence rather than Your excellencies. Forgive us, renew us, and restore as Your newborn, chosen, priestly people, on account of Jesus. Amen.

Although Jesus Christ was rejected and killed, God raised Him from the dead, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. We are forgiven. We are a newborn, chosen, priestly people.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“This Is the Feast”

~This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

♪ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

Whose blood set us free to be people of God. ~This is the feast...

♪ Power, riches, wisdom and strength,

And honor, blessing, and glory are His. ~This is the feast...

♪ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

~This is the feast...

♪ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ~This is the feast....

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First Reading

Acts 6:1–7; 7:2a, 51–60

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

²And Stephen said:

...⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Peter 2:2–10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response Hymn

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

♪ Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; To His feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

♪ Praise Him for His grace and favor To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.

♪ Father-like He tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hand He gently bears us, Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.

♪ Angels, help us to adore Him; You behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, All who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

The Prayer *Please Stand*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1–14

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Confirmation Essays *Please Be Seated*

Holy Baptism

Isabeau Niemann

The Ten Commandments

Avery Bozeman

Apostles' Creed

Jolie Kainer

Lord's Prayer

Kasey Picard

Lord's Supper

Lila Meyer

Children's Message

The Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

♪ My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

~On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

- ♪ When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
 In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. ~On Christ,...
- ♪ His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
 When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. ~On Christ,...
- ♪ When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
 Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! ~On Christ,....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 575- Text: Edward Mote 1797-1874;
 Tune: John Stainer 1840-1901; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Proclamation of the Word

“What We Have in Common!”

1 Peter 2:2–10

Offering and Musical Offering

Rite of Confirmation

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalm 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus Hymn

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (v. 4)

♪ Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav'nly blessed sing:

“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!” Be to the Father and our Lord,

To Spirit blest, most holy God, All the glory, never ending! Alleluia, alleluia, allelu-ia!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 465-Text: Paul Z. Stodach 1876-1947; ©1958 Augsburg Publishing House;
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Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Distribution Hymn

“At the Lamb's High Feast”

♪ At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
 Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

♪ Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
 Gives His body for the feast, Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

- ♪ Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!
- ♪ Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!
- ♪ Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- ♪ Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!
- ♪ Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!
- ♪ Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by Whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 633-Text: Latin, c. 5-10 cent., tr. Robert Campbell 1814-68
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Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Each petition is concluded with the following:

Christ is our cornerstone,

On Him alone we build.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

Recessional Hymn

“Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

- ♪ Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build; With His true saints alone
The courts of heav'n are filled. On His great love
Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.

- ♪ Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away.

- ♪ Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 912-Text: Latin c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler 1806-76;
Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain.*

Postlude