



May 4, 2025

Confirmation Sunday

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

- ♪ Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!  
Splendor the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!  
~Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!
- ♪ Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;  
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. ~Jesus is...
- ♪ Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me. ~Jesus is...
- ♪ Weeping be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.  
Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!” Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. ~Jesus is...
- ♪ City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,  
River of life, Saints and arch-angels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! ~Jesus is....

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## Invocation

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

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

## Confession and Absolution

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

**And in sin did my mother conceive me.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**And renew a right spirit within me.**

*A Time of Silence*

*Psalms 51:5, 10*

Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.

**I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**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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**The First Reading**

Acts 9:1–22

<sup>1</sup>But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup>And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” <sup>5</sup>And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” <sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” <sup>17</sup>So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup>and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” <sup>21</sup>And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” <sup>22</sup>But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Epistle**

Revelation 5:1–14

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup>And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” <sup>3</sup>And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, <sup>4</sup>and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup>And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

<sup>6</sup>And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup>And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup>And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup>And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
<sup>10</sup>and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth.”

<sup>11</sup>Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

<sup>13</sup>And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

<sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual Hymn**

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

♪ Now all the vault of heav’n resounds In praise of love that still abounds:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here: “Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

♪ Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings:

“Christ has triumphed! He is living!” Now still He comes to give us life

And by His presence stills all strife. Christ has triumphed! He is living!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

♪ O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above

That we conquer through Your triumph; Grant grace sufficient for life’s day

That by our lives we truly say: “Christ has triumphed! He is living!”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## *Please Stand*

♪ 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, alleluia!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 465; Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
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## **Holy Gospel**

John 21:1–19

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.

### **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. <sup>8</sup>The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup>When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." <sup>19</sup>(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Confirmation Essays** *Please Be Seated*

Holy Baptism

The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

Lord's Supper

Isolde Niemann

Bradley Picard

Ryley McElroy

## **Children's Message**

## The Hymn

“Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free”

- ♪ Our Paschal Lamb, that sets us free, Is sacrificed, O keep  
The feast of freedom gallantly; Let alleluias leap:  
~Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Again Sing Alleluia, cry aloud: Alleluia! Amen!
- ♪ Let all our lives now celebrate The feast; let malice die.  
Let love grow strong anew, and great, Let truth stamp out the lie. ~Alleluia!...
- ♪ Let all our deeds, unanimous, Confess Him as our Lord  
Who by the Spirit lives in us, The Father’s living Word. ~Alleluia!....

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## Proclamation of the Word

“Changed for Life!”

Acts 9:1–12

## Offering and Musical Offering

## Rite of Confirmation

**Prayer of the Church** *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Christ is risen,

**He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

## Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

## Sanctus

*Music: “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today,” Hymn 469*

- ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav’n and earth adored.  
Sing hosanna, to the Lord. Blest is He who comes to us!

## Words of Our Lord

## Lord’s Prayer

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

*Music: “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today,” Hymn 469*

- ♪ Jesus, Lamb of God, our Lord, Jesus, Lamb of God, our God.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, we pray: Lord, have mercy, grant us peace!

## Distribution Hymn

*Please Be Seated*

“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. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.; Text: Public domain*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise”

- ♪ Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluias angels raise  
Thine the everlasting head Thine the breaking of the bread  
Thine the glory Thine the story Thine the harvest then the cup  
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.
- ♪ Thine the life eternally Thine the promise let there be  
Thine the vision Thine the tree All the earth on bended knee  
Gone the nailing gone the railing Gone the pleading gone the cry  
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.
- ♪ Thine the truly Thine the yes Thine the table we the guest  
Thine the mercy all from Thee Thine the glory yet to be  
Then the ringing and the singing Then the end of all the war  
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.
- ♪ Thine the kingdom Thine the prize Thine the wonder full surprise  
Thine the banquet then the praise Then the justice of Thy ways  
Thine the glory Thine the story Then the welcome to the least  
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
- ♪ Thine the glory in the night No more dying only light  
Thine the river Thine the tree Then the Lamb eternally  
Then the holy holy holy Celebration jubilee  
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 680; Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009*

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## Postlude