

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Service with Confirmation

April 24th, 2022

This morning we have the opportunity to hear the confession of our confirmands as we welcome them into communicant membership. As we do so, we also find opportunity to pray for them and all the youth of our congregation as we rejoice in the power and blessings of the Word of God.

ST. PAUL'S SENIOR CHOIR

May God Give You Strength

Text & Tune: Mark Patterson

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OPENING SENTENCES

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

Amen.

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,
for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. *Galatians 3:26,27*

There is one body and one Spirit—
just as you were called to one hope when you were called—
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. *Ephesians 4:4-6*

You are the salt of the earth;
you are the light of the world.

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds
and praise your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:13-16*

As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
especially to those who belong to the family of believers. *Galatians 6:10*

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through Him. *Colossians 3:17*

HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia
CW#442

- 1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Al-le-lu-ia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Al-le-lu-ia!
see the place where he was laid; Al-le-lu-ia!
praise him for the ransom paid. Al-le-lu-ia!*
- 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al-le-lu-ia!
sinless in the sinners' stead. Al-le-lu-ia!
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry; Al-le-lu-ia!
now he lives, no more to die. Al-le-lu-ia!*
- 3 Christ, the victim undefiled, Al-le-lu-ia!
God and sinners reconciled, Al-le-lu-ia!
while, in strange and awesome strife, Al-le-lu-ia!
met together death and life. Al-le-lu-ia!*
- 4 Christ, who once for sinners bled, Al-le-lu-ia!
now the first-born from the dead, Al-le-lu-ia!
throned in endless might and pow'r, Al-le-lu-ia!
lives and reigns forevermore. Al-le-lu-ia!*

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. *2 Timothy 3:16,17*

Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask His forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed You in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God gave his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (*John 20:31*). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



FIRST LESSON:

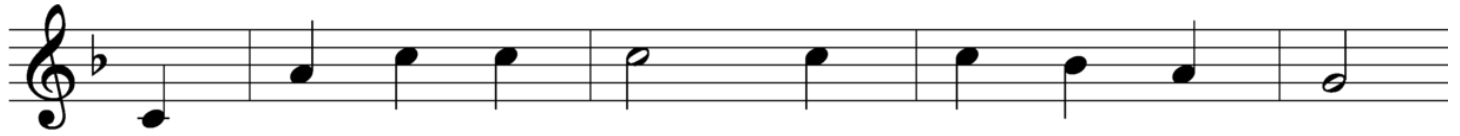
Acts 5:12,17-32

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.” At daybreak, they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent ... for the apostles. But on arriving ..., the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were puzzled, wondering what would come of this. Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them. Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.” Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”



PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 150



1 Sing praise to the LORD, you peo - ple of grace;
 2 His great - ness ex - ceeds what words can ex - plain;
 3 Where mu - sic is made, let rhy - thms a - bound
 4 Yield all that you are to wor - ship the LORD -



fill heav'n with the songs that sound from this place
 and His is the pow'r no force can re - strain
 let cym - bals and drums add weight to the sound
 see life as a Psalm each mo - ment a chord



Since you are God's ser - vants and meet in His name,
 with fan-fares of horns and cre - scen - dos of strings
 with dance that is grace - ful in words that are clear
 let har - mon - ies flour - ish and mel - o - dies soar



His won-ders de - clare and His glo - ry pro-claim. *refrain*
 raise an-thems to hon - or the King of all kings. *refrain*
 bring joy to the God you a - dore and re - vere. *refrain*
 let all that has breath praise the Lord ev-er - more. *refrain*

Refrain



Hal - le! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le! Hal - le!



Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le! Hal-le-lu - jah!



Hal - le! Hal - le! Hal - le - lu - jah!

SECOND LESSON:

Revelation 1:4-18

John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and was, and is to come, the Almighty.” I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord’s Day, I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches:” I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and

among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

John 20:29b

Using the tune of A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (472)

Christ is a-ris-en, let us sing! Indeed He’s risen! Let it ring!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Bless-ed are those who have not seen
and yet believe the Easter scene!*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Allelu - - ia!

GOSPEL LESSON:

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here;

see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

HYMN

O Sons and Daughters of the King
CW#456:1,5-7

*1 O sons and daughters of the King, whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,
today the grave has lost its sting! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*5 When Thomas afterwards had heard that that Jesus had fulfilled his word,
he doubted that it was the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he, "my hands, my feet, my body see;
and doubt not, but believe in me." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*7 No longer Thomas then denied; he saw the feet, the hands, the side;
"You are my Lord and God," he cried. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

SERMON

JOHN 20:19-31

OFFERING

If you are a visitor please fill out a visitor card in the pew if you have not already signed our guest book in the entry. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate as it comes around.

Please stand and sing hymn 456:8 *O Sons and Daughters of the King* as the offering is brought forward.

*8 Blessèd are they that have not seen and yet whose faith has constant been;
in life eternal they shall reign. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a public profession of the Christian faith, following a period of instruction. It is a rite by which a person is recognized as one properly prepared to receive Holy Communion and therefore welcomed into communicant membership. It is not a graduation service or an announcement that this student has learned the whole of Scripture. Our prayer is that all of us, confirmands past, present, and future continue to benefit from the regular study of God's Word.

THOSE BEING CONFIRMED STAND

My dear young friends, when you were baptized, your gracious Lord forgave all your sins and covered you with the robe of Christ's righteousness. Through water and the Word, He created faith in your hearts and adopted you into the family of believers. As you matured and heard and studied the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit enlightened your minds and preserved you as children of God.

You have expressed the desire to confess the truths you believe before your Savior, your family and friends, and this congregation. You are ready to say with St. Paul, "I believed; therefore I have spoken." You have learned to examine your thoughts, words, and actions in the light of God's Law, and you have experienced the comfort of forgiveness in the Savior's Gospel. With this preparation, you are eager to receive the Savior's body and blood in the Sacrament.

As we worship with you on this day, we are filled with joy as we see how the Lord has grown your faith and love. We are bringing our prayers to the Savior's throne of grace and imploring Him to keep you faithful to Him and His Word until you join us and believers in the glories of heaven.

Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

I do.

Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From
there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?
I do.

Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as
you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful
and true to the Word of God?

I do.

Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all
things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

I do, and I ask God to help me.

Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's
Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and
action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you
live?

I do, and I ask God to help me.

The minister addresses the congregation.

Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good
pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for these
confirmands, that he would graciously complete the good work which he
has begun in them. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

PRAYER

Gracious Father, you have adopted these brothers and sisters in Baptism and anointed them with your Holy Spirit. Renew and strengthen them by that same Spirit so that they may continue to grow in faith and boldly confess you before others. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Move them to faithfully hear your Holy Word and joyfully receive your Sacrament that they may again and again be assured of your gracious love and forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give them the sincere desire to die each day to sin and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Clothe them with the kindness, humility, and patience of Christ and so that they may live at peace with all the members of Christ's body. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Protect them from the powers of evil, and give them the weapons to fight against the devil. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Keep them faithful and holy so that they may inherit eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Special prayers may follow

Amen.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, what we as a Christian congregation have here asked our heavenly Father to confer on all of you, we now ask him to give each of you individually.

The confirmands, in turn, come forward.

Braydon Ronald Brylski	Psalm 139:14
Collin Joseph Ferriol	John 3:16
Bevyn Christine Haase	Deuteronomy 31:6
Jack Thomas Paolasini Jerman	Romans 8:28
Isabelle Addison Kampman	Exodus 34:6-7
Adler Eric Meyer	Psalm 23:4
Cage Griffyn Mueller	1 Peter 2:9
Keely Rachel Neuy	Revelation 2:10
Evalyn Joy Paul	Psalm 62:1
Travis Dean Pucker	Acts 4:12
Layla Jane Schwartz	Psalm 25:5
Emmitt Carl Slattery	Psalm 31:19
Owen Donald Slattery	John 13:34-35
Anna Jean Suprenand	Jeremiah 29:11
Madison Grace Zittlow	Philippians 4:13

After all the confirmands have received the blessing, the minister dismisses them, saying:

Confirmands, your church welcomes you into communicant membership and invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given you by God through his Church; receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God – Father, Son †, and Holy Spirit – bless and keep you.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- 1 In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.*
- 2 In Christ alone—who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev’ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.*
- 3 There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine—Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*
- 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, heavenly Father, you see our young people growing up in an uncertain and confusing world. Send your Holy Spirit into their hearts that through your means of grace they may grow in grace and wisdom. Give them strength to resist temptation and courage to meet the challenges of each new day. Show them that following you is more satisfying than pursuing selfish goals. Make their unique gifts and youthful vitality a blessing to their families, the church, and to all others their lives may touch, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

(spoken) **Amen**

AARONIC BLESSING

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.

(spoken) Amen

CLOSING HYMN

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

CW #640

*God's Word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
we keep its teachings pure
throughout all generations.*

Portions of our Service today were based upon *Meditation on Our Christian Calling*, the *Gathering Rite on the Word of God* from *Christian Worship: Supplement and Confirmation* from *Christian Worship: Occasional Services*. Hymns are from *Christian Worship: Hymnal*. All published by Northwestern Publishing House. All Rights Reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-71596