

Confirmation Sunday
May 2nd, 2021



(This worship service will feature special notes in the side column to explain the service. It will also include some questions from the confirmands examinations.)

These verses are from Psalm 119 and are a very ancient reading for young people who are being confirmed. They have been used as far back as the 3rd century.

The prayer of the day recalls the worship theme for the service and asks that God would fulfill it in us.

# **Confirmation Worship**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
- C: By living according to your word.
- P: I seek you with all my heart;
- C: Do not let me stray from your commands.
- P: I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
- C: Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees.
- P: With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.
- C: I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.
- P: I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
- C: I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.
- P: We read together our service's theme verse:
- C: "Jesus answered, 'I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

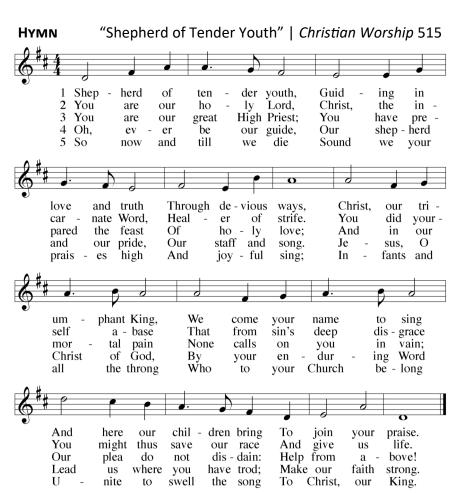
  Amen. JN. 14:6

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



This is the oldest hymn in our hymnal!
It has been sung since the 2nd century and asks that God would teach and bless the education of young people, like the confirmands.

# **Confession & Forgiveness**

- P: Why is it good for us to confess our sins?
- C: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 JN. 1:9
- P: What is meant by the ministry of the keys?
- C: Jesus says: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

  MT. 16:19; JN. 20:23

We confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness. This is an important part of our worship service since it puts our hearts and minds in the right place for the rest of the service. We come to worship to receive from God, and here we receive his forgiveness of sins.

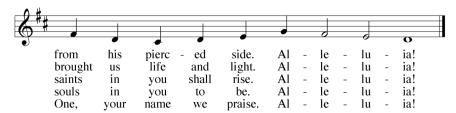
- P: We make use of these keys as we confess our sins:
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.
- P: "When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." TI 3:4-7

On the basis of your confession and the mercy of God, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C: Amen.
- P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:



Following the absolution of our sins, we join together to praise God for his forgiveness. This hymn reminds us of the victory Christ has won by his resurrection. The picture is of a feast at which all who inherit eternal life, taken from Revelation 19:9—"Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"



## The Word of God

- P: Although humans wrote down the words contained in the Bible, who is really the author of all that the Bible contains?
- C: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Ti 3:16-17

FIRST LESSON 1 John 3:18-24

Christian live in love. It exemplifies their entire lives. Their love flows from the perfect love that Jesus showed.

<sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup> The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

- P: This is the Word of the Lord.

  What does the Holy Spirit use to bring people to faith?
- C: Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Ro 10:17
- P: What other important work does the Holy Spirit do after he brings us to faith?
- C: I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. EP 3:16-17

Every worship service we read from the Bible. At our church, we follow a lectionary, which is a list of suggested readings for each Sunday of the church year. The lectionary is such a blessing for two reasons: (1) It ensures that we hear the whole council of God, and (2) it protects the congregation from the whims of the pastor.

Our lectionary suggests four readings for each Sunday: an Old Testament lesson, a Psalm, a New Testament lesson, and a reading from a Gospel. This Sunday we are making use of two of them. Each of the four readings serves the Gospel which follows the theme for the Sunday. In our church, we follow the tradition of standing for the words of Jesus in the Gospel. We want to honor the Word of Christ.

GOSPEL LESSON John 15:1-8

Jesus uses the picture of a vine to describe the connection a Christian has to him. Through the Branch, we receive spiritual blessings in abundance. Yet, Jesus tells us to remain in him. He holds and keeps us in the faith—but we must choose to remain in him.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

- P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C: Praise be to you, O Christ!
- P: What is a Bible passage that teaches us the reason for the Bible?
- C: These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in his name. JN 20:31

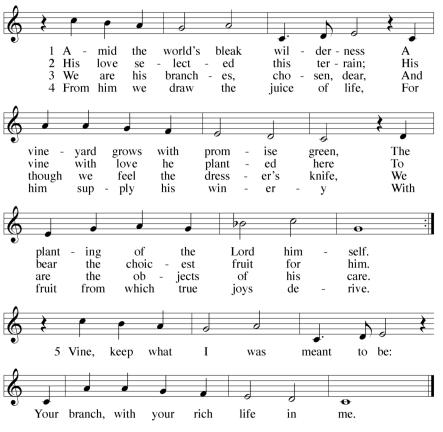
**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Amid the World's Bleak Wilderness" | CW 342

Next Page; the soloist will sing verse 1, the congregation is invite to join the rest of the hymn.

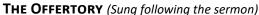
In our church, we usually have a sermon based on one section of Scripture. The sermon is usually 15-20 minutes long, which is shorter than most churches today. The pastor will explain what God teaches and how it applies to your life.

## Sermon

"Be the Branch's Vine" Text: John 15:1-8



The sermon hymn/ hymn of the day connects especially to the theme for the service as it is taught in the sermon.



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and

up-hold me with



your

free Spir-it.

A - men.

The offertory song is taken from Psalm 51. With these words, we ask that the Holy Spirit would use the Word of God we have heard to remind us we are saved and empower us by the gospel to live a life of thanks.

# We Respond to God's Word

The church does not exist to take your money. Believers willingly give back to God because he has been so gracious to them, and God assures that he loves when we give willingly and joyfully.

### **OFFERING** (taken at the door)

The members of Saint Peter Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. May God bless us as we do his work! To give an offering with your smartphone, text "givesplc" to 77977 and click on the link that you receive. Offerings can be given by credit card, debit card, or your bank account. Offerings can also be given by going to our website (saintpeterlutheran.org) or mailed to 427 W. Mulberry, Saint Peter MN 56082.



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH



# The Rite of Confirmation

Those being confirmed (R) stand.

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: "If you

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 who is properly prepared to receive Holy Communion and become an adult member of the church.

confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

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?

R: I do.

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

R: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

R: 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.

P: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

R: I do.

P: 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?

R: I do.

This is the apostles creed, formulated about AD 125. The confirmands affirm they believe these words.

Consider how much these words mean.

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- P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- R: I do, and I ask God to help me.
- P: 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?
- R: I do, and I ask God to help me.

The pastor addresses the congregation.

- P: As a congregation, you are inviting these students to become members with you who share in the ministry of this church and with whom you have fellowship. It is the privilege of all Christians to provide Biblical encouragement, brotherly support, and Christian love to other Christians, as the Holy Spirit says: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." I ask you therefore, do you intend to provide encouragement, support, and love to these young Christians. If so, answer, "Yes, and I ask God to help me."
- C: Yes, and I ask God to help me.
- P: 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:

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by our baptism you have washed away our sin—being buried and raised with Christ. Renew in these young servants of yours the promise you with them at their baptism. Send forth your Spirit so that they may believe in you with all their heart, mind and soul, and remain faithful until the end when you give them the crown of life. We ask this through Jesus Christ, and join to pray as he taught us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

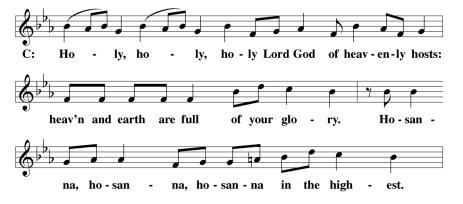
#### THE CONFIRMATION BLESSINGS

The pastor places his hand in blessing on each confirmati and reads aloud the Bible passage they chose as their confirmation passage.

# The Lord's Supper

- P: When did Jesus institute the Sacrament of Holy Communion?
- C: On the night he was betrayed. 1 Co 11:23
- P: What four things do you receive in this sacrament?
- C: Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

  1 Co 10:16
- P: What blessings do we receive through this eating and drinking?
- C: This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. MT 26:26
- P: Let us join in the song of saints and angels as we prepare our hearts:

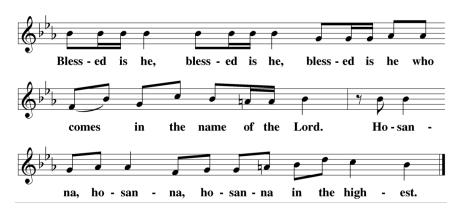


We include the Lord's Prayer in every service. The words come from Jesus in Matthew 6 and Luke 11. It is a model prayer for Christians.

The word, confirmand, means "those who are about to be confirmed." After the rite, they become "confirmati," which means, "those who have been confirmed."

The liturgy for the Lord's Supper begins a "second" service.

The "Sanctus" is an ancient song taken from Isaiah 6, Matthew 21, Mark 11, and John 12.



Just like Jesus said a prayer of thanks before the first Lord's Supper, we do, too. Reminding ourselves and thanking him for everything he has accomplished and gives us in this Sacrament.

#### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P: Lord God, you are worthy of thanksgiving from all people! You created the world and its inhabitants in your compassion, and you have saved us through your mercy.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, remembering this great mystery of the passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Forgive our sins, and fill us with the hope of the resurrection and new life in heaven. Praise, honor, thanksgiving, and adoration be to your living and life-giving name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

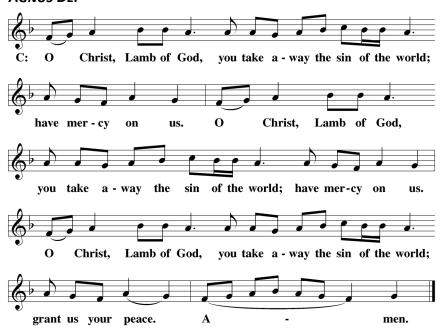
P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ⊕ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

C: Amen.

The Words of Institution (or the Verba) come from Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and 1 Corinthians 11. These words teach that Jesus' body and blood are truly present in a way that we cannot explain. During the Sacrament, recipients receive bread, wine, body & blood.

#### **AGNUS DEI**



The "Agnus Dei" is a song about Jesus, the Lamb of God. The words are taken from John 1:29, which teaches us that Jesus has taken away the sins of all the world, and our sins, too.

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

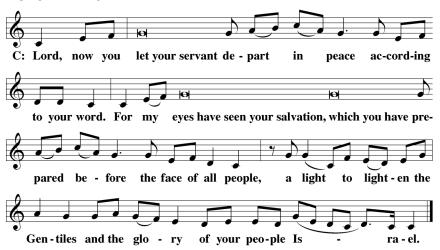
Our church practices the Biblical teaching of closed communion. All those who are members of our congregation or another Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) congregation are invited to receive Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament. If you have any questions about this practice, please contact one of our pastors, and we would be happy to discuss it with you. In addition, if you would like to become a member of our church, we offer a class to teach what we believe. If you are in our fellowship, and desire to commune today, please follow the directions of the ushers as you come to the table.

## Communion Hymn (Next Page)

This hymn uses a familiar melody, but it has been specially written by Pastor Heise to summarize each of the student's confirmation verses. Enjoy singing these words they chose back to them as they receive the Lord's Supper for the first time.



#### **NUNC DIMITTIS**



The "Nunc Dimittis" is another song from Scripture. The words are Latin for, "Now you dismiss." These words come from Luke 2:28-32. For this reason, this is sometimes called the "Song of Simeon" the one who originally sang these words after seeing Christ for the first time and realizing just what that meant for him and all people.

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

#### **BENEDICTION**

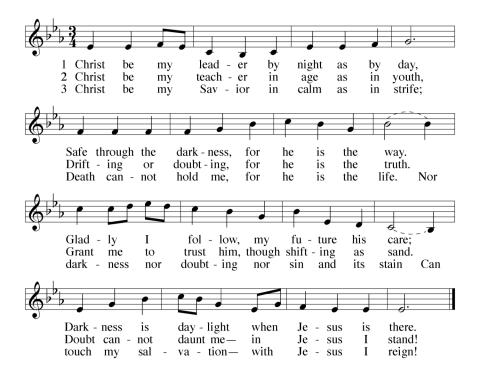
P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and # give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn (Next Page) "Christ Be My Leader" | CW 367

The Aaronic blessing was given to believers in Numbers 6. It is one way that God puts his name on his people so that they may remember that we are his. For this reason, we also make the sign of the cross (⊕). Every time the pastor makes the sign of the cross during the worship service is to remind you of your baptism, where God also puts his name on you and washes away your sins.

This hymn is a beautiful way for us to finish our service as a prayer asking Jesus to lead us through life and whatever may come. What an apropos prayer for the confirmati.



#### **CONFIRMATION VERSE PARAGRAPH**

The confirmati will each read a paragraph that explains why they chose their confirmation passage. Those passages can be found in the back of this bulletin.

#### **Service Notes:**

"Surely, God is Your Salvation" © 2021 Justin Heise.

All liturgical music, unless otherwise noted, was taken from <u>Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal</u> (Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House, 1993).

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## **The Confirmation Students**

Caleb Westphal Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Eli Stoll Revelation 21:6

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."

Evan Hinker Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Macord Lindstrom Isaiah 12:2

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.

### **Paige Winkelmann**

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Samara Yushta Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Santiago Vega Joshua 1:8

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.



May 2-9, 2021		
Sun	8:00 & 10:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:10 a.m.	Adult Bible Study and Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Livestream Worship on Facebook
	1 p.m.	Hispanic Worship
	6 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	Women's Bible Study - Book of Daniel
	8 p.m. (Zoom)	Women's Bible Study - Christian Stewardship
Mon	1 p.m.	Quilters
	3:15 p.m.	NO Lutheran Pioneers
Tue	6:30 p.m.	Christian Ed. Meeting
		Outreach Committee
Wed	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Public School Confirmation
	8 p.m.	Youth for Christ
Thur	3:15 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
Fri	6:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Sun	8:00 & 10:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:10 a.m.	Adult Bible Study and Sunday School
	6 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	Women's Bible Study - Book of Daniel
	8 p.m. (Zoom)	Women's Bible Study - Christian Stewardship