

The Day of Confirmation

July 12, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Hermiston, Oregon



The Lord be with you! The Lord's Supper is celebrated this morning in the confidence that, as He says, Jesus gives us not only bread and wine, but also His very body and blood to eat and drink (Matthew 26:26-28). This meal is given to us for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Christ and our love for one another.

Because the Scriptures tell us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner are doing themselves great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29); and because Holy Communion is a sharing in the faith confessed at this altar, the following are asked to consult with the pastor before taking communion:

- any who are not yet instructed in the Christian faith;
- those who hold a confession differing from that of Bethlehem and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

If you are visiting us this morning and would like to receive a blessing at the altar we Invite you to come forward.

To let those serving communion know you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest and bow your head – see image to the right.



As the Hymn begins, please rise and face the processional cross

Hymn #507 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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Confession and Absolution from Matthew 28:19 and John 20:22-23

P: Children of God, hear again the words that brought you life through the waters of Holy Baptism: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us,
forgive us our sins,
and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you 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.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn #578 vv. 1-3 “Thy Strong Word”

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee Who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation,
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee Who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee Who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Hymn #578 vv. 4-5 "Thy Strong Word"

From the cross Thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gradual

Romans 11:33, 36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!
For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be glory forever. Amen.

Hymn #578 v. 6 “Thy Strong Word”

△ God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

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Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear . . .

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn #702 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

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Sermon

The Rite of Confirmation for

Anna Rivera

Clare Osmin

Cole Weyand

Nathaniel Connell

Hymn "We Ask Now For Thy Blessing" sung to "The Church's One Foundation"

We ask now for Thy blessing
Upon these young saints Lord.
Please keep them ever standing
On Thy eternal Word.
Command Thy angels guard them,
Uphold them in Thy hand;
That they may see Jerusal'm,
Thy pure and holy land.

Anna

"Gracious"

Psalms 103:8 ESV

O Blessed Holy Spirit
May Anna e'er embrace
The knowledge of Thy mercy,
Thy precious holy grace,
The slowness of Thy anger,
Thy deep, abounding love.
And give to her Thy blessings
That flow from heav'n above!

Clare

"Bright"

Matthew 5:16b ESV

O Lord, bless Clare to shine with
Thy light within her soul.
And may her works serve solely
Thy glory to extol.
Grant her a heart so trusting,
A faith that burns so bright,
That all who gaze upon her
Will praise Thee as the Light!

Cole

"Victory"

Romans 12:21 ESV

O holy, heav'nly Father
Direct Cole in his life;
To not respond with anger
Or evil in the strife.
But overcome by fighting
With love and all that's good.
To live out loud his calling
A child of Thee, O God.

Nathaniel

"Gift of God"

Romans 6:23 ESV

O Jesus bless Nathaniel
And guide him everyday
For though all sin is deadly,
Thou art the only Way.
From death to life do bring him -
His sins erase away.
Grant him Thy gift of mercy,
To live in endless day.

The Rite of Confirmation

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded You; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father Who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My

Father Who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your baptism?

Catechumens: *Yes, I do.*

P: Do you renounce the devil?

Catechumens: *Yes, I renounce him.*

P: Do you renounce all his works?

Catechumens: *Yes, I renounce them.*

P: Do you renounce all his ways?

Catechumens: *Yes, I renounce them.*

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Catechumens: *Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.*

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

Catechumens: *Yes, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Catechumens: *Yes, 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.*

P: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

Catechumens: *I do.*

P: Do you confess the doctrine of the Historic Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

Catechumens: *I do.*

P: Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

Catechumens: *I do, by the grace of God.*

P: Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

Catechumens: *I do, by the grace of God.*

P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Catechumens: *I do, by the grace of God.*

P: We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He Who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The Catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing.

The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:

P: *[Name]*, the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

The pastor may read a text of Holy Scripture as a remembrance of confirmation.

The Elders also share a blessing with each of the catechumens.

P: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these, Your children, to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness;

C: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

P: Peace ✠ be with you.

C: Amen.

Hymn (after the Rite of Confirmation)

Be with them, God the Fa-ther,
Be with them, God the Son,
And God the Ho-ly Spir-it,
Most bless-ed Three-in-One.
Teach them, Thy faith-ful ser-vants,
Thee right-ly to a-dore,
And fill them with Thy full-ness
Both now and ev-er-more.

The Prayers of the Church

The 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.**

The Lord's Supper

The Dismissal

After the Distribution, the following is said:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

The Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing Numbers 6:24-26

P: 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.

C: Amen.

What's Happening Next Week

The Verse for July *Romans 15:13*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Recessional Hymn #922 "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

*Please turn and face the processional cross as it leads the Recessional,
when it has left the Sanctuary, you may turn back to face the front*

Go, My children, with My blessing,
Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are My own.

In My love's baptismal river
I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing—
You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son's story;
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you;
Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
And give you peace.

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