

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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A Family of Ministries For Christian Worship, Education and Care

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## CONFIRMATION – PENTECOST 17 – September 27th, 2020

#### HYMN:

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#### **THE INVOCATION**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

- **M:** I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.
- C: Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.
- **M:** Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us.
- C: But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- **M:** As baptized children of God 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.

## THE ABSOLUTION

- M: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.
- **M:** 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.
- C: Amen.

### HYMN:

## CWS #752 "In Christ Alone"

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.

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.

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.

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.

## THE LESSON

#### ACTS 2:1-14; 22-24

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. <sup>2</sup> But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the other Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. <sup>3</sup> So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. <sup>4</sup> The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. <sup>5</sup> There was a plot afoot among both Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. <sup>6</sup> But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, <sup>7</sup> where they continued to preach the gospel.

<sup>8</sup> In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup> He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup> and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

"When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" <sup>12</sup> Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup> The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

<sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: <sup>15</sup> "Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. <sup>16</sup> In the past, he let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup> Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." <sup>18</sup> Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.<sup>19</sup> Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. <sup>20</sup> But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.<sup>21</sup> They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. <sup>23</sup> Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

### <u>Song</u>

Christ Will Hold Me Fast Together for The Gospel Live Music used with permission CCLI License 11209822 Lyrics Displayed On Screen

#### **CONFIRMAND'S EXAMINATION**

Confirming is the work of the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God, that strengthens our faith in Jesus. At confirmation we confirm the covenant that God made with us at baptism. The Rite of Confirmation acknowledges that children of God have grown in the grace and knowledge of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and now promise to continue to grow in that grace and knowledge until their lives here on earth are over. Scripture uses the word "confirm" in Acts 14:22 where the Apostle Paul was "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith" Today we do the same.

#### Song:

#### Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled CWS #759 - David Haas Music used with permission CCLI License 11209822

Do not let your hearts be troubled Have faith in God and faith in me I will go forth to prepare a place for you And I'll come back to take you with me That where I am you may also be

In God's house there are many places for you alone to dwell in safety You know the way to where I lead you If you are lost I will show the way

Do not let your hearts be troubled Have faith in God and faith in me I will go forth to prepare a place for you And I'll come back to take you with me That where I am you may also be

I am the way the truth and the life Only through me can you know what I know If you knew me you would see the vision If you see me you see your God

Do not let your hearts be troubled Have faith in God and faith in me I will go forth to prepare a place for you And I'll come back to take you with me That where I am you may also be

The words I speak are not only of my self It is your God who lives within me If you believe that your God and I are one I will provide when you call my name

Do not let your hearts be troubled Have faith in God and faith in me I will go forth to prepare a place for you And I'll come back to take you with me That where I am you may also be

## THE SERMON

"Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's ouse are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know where I am going, and you know the way."

<sup>5</sup> "Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?"

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

## THE OFFERING

An opportunity to give online can also be used at Paypal.me/GracePortland or by utilizing this QR code:

## THE HYMN:

To God be the glory; great things he has done! He so loved the world that he gave us his Son, Who yielded his life an atonement for sin And opened the life-gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice! Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son And give him the glory --great things he has done!

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To ev'ry believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice! Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son And give him the glory --great things he has done! CW #399 "To God Be The Glory"



#### JOHN 14:1-6

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son, But purer and higher and greater will be Our joy and our wonder when Jesus we see. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice! Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son And give him the glory --great things he has done!

## THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

- M: 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 will be 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 can now exercise the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion. Today you are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and answer these questions:
- M: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?R: I do.
- **M:** Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?
- R: I do.
- M: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?
- R: I do.
- **M:** Let us all join in confessing our Christian faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

- C: 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.
- M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?
- R: I do.
- **M:** 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.

- **M:** 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.
- **M:** 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.
- M: 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.

### THE PRAYER 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 CONFIRMATION BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, what we as a Christian congregation have here asked our heavenly Father to confer on all you, we now ask him to give each of you individually. Give now your hand as a pledge of your promise and kneel to receive the blessing.

# + REBEKAH BITTER + + NOAH TANNER + + KEITH GARNER +

M: Your church now invites you to partake of 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 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.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today the confirmands will receive the Lord's Supper together as a class. Following the service the Lord's Supper will be available for members of Grace and those in fellowship with the WELS. Thank you for honoring our practice of "close" communion. The Bible teaches that participating in the Lord's Supper is an expression of complete unity of faith (1 Cor. 10:17). We lovingly ask, therefore, that before joining in this, the highest act of fellowship, a unity of faith based on the Bible be established through membership in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are most eager for you to join us in the unity of faith and confession we enjoy.

## THE DISTRIBUTION HYMN

CW #382 (1,3) "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare to make no other claim, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

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

## HYMN:

Jesus King of Angels Fernando Ortega Music used with permission CCLI License 11209822 Lyrics Displayed On Screen

Jesus, King of angels, Heaven's light Shine Your face upon this house tonight Let no evil come into my dreams Light of Heaven keep me in Your peace

Remind me how You made dark spirits flee And spoke Your power to the raging sea And spoke Your mercy to a sinful man Remind me Jesus, this is what I am

The universe is vast beyond the stars But You are mindful when the sparrow falls And mindful of the anxious thoughts That find me, surround me and bind me

With all my heart I love You, Sovereign Lord Tomorrow let me love You even more And rise to speak the goodness of Your name Until I close my eyes and sleep again

The universe is vast beyond the stars But You are mindful when the sparrow falls And mindful of the anxious thoughts That find me, surround me and bind me

Jesus, King of angels, Heaven's light Hold my hand and keep me through this night

