

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 19 & 20, 2012

10:30 Order of Confirmation

AS WE GATHER

Today, between our Lord's ascension and Pentecost, we see Christ's ministry continuing through His Church as Matthias is selected to replace Judas. We are part of that legacy of Christ's ministry, shaped and sustained by the truth of Christ revealed to us in Word and Sacrament.

WELCOME

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN # 837

"Lift High the Cross"

(10:30 Rise and face processional cross at entrance of sanctuary)

5:00 & 8:00 (Please rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Although God declares us righteous for Jesus' sake and has incorporated us into the Church, the Body of Christ, we must admit that we do not always meditate on His law or follow His ways. Let us prepare to confess our sins.
Almighty God,

People: we confess that, like the wicked, we have not relied on your mercy and grace to sustain us each day. We have failed to meditate on your Word and have listened to the advice of worldly people. We have not recognized that you know everything about us. For Jesus' sake, forgive us; continue to nourish us with your Word and Sacraments so that we may thrive as trees planted by streams of living water. We desire to prosper your kingdom as did your saints in generations before us.

Pastor: Indeed, God knows our ways! On account of Christ's sacrifice, our heavenly Father looks down on us in love, grace, and mercy, claiming us as His righteous children. 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sing) Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
 whose blood set us free to be people of God.
 Power and riches and wisdom and strength
 and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation,

People: but send us the Spirit of truth whom you promised from the Father;

Pastor: for you live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

FIRST READING Acts 1:12-26 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus—he was one of our number and shared in this ministry." (With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms, "'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "'May another take his place of leadership.'" Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection." So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

SECOND READING 1 John 5:9-15 We accept man’s testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

5:00 SOLO “How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings”

8:00 ANTHEM “You Are Mine”

(Please rise)

HOLY GOSPEL John 17:11b-19 Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

(Please be seated)

5:00 & 8:00 CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN # 856 “O Christ, Who Called the Twelve”

SERMON “God’s Testimony in Our Hearts” 1 John 5:9-15

10:30 HYMN # 644 “The Church’s One Foundation”

10:30 RITE OF CONFIRMATION *(Parents, Grandparents & Sponsors are invited to come forward & stand behind your confirmand when they approach the altar to be confirmed. No photography during the worship service please.)*

(Please rise)

5:00 & 8:00 THE APOSTLES’ CREED *(found on the back page of the hymnal)*

(Please be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Please rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord of the Church, on the night in which you were betrayed into suffering and death, you prayed that we would be protected by your Word and sanctified by your Holy Spirit.

People: **In your grace, lead us and guide us so that, surrounded by your care, we may grow in faith and in numbers, continuing your blessed ministry.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, St. John wrote that our faith is testimony to the life you have bestowed on us.

People: **By your mercy, enable us to use every opportunity and resource to share our faith and the eternal life you have given us. May we be bold to proclaim Christ crucified to people known to us and to the strangers in our midst.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we pray for your people in every land.

People: **Keep them strong in faith; defend them against all enemies; protect all who, in the face of danger, defend freedom. Raise up compassionate and just leaders to order society for the welfare of all that your Gospel may be freely proclaimed.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we have young adults who are confirming their baptismal vows,

People: **grant them a strong faith in you and be near them throughout their lives.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we come before you on behalf of Dennis, Donald, Joe, Warren, Jerry, Kim, Samuel and Shirley, who are experiencing distress, suffering and who are remembering loved ones.

People: **As you have graciously given them eternal life, so also give them relief from their sorrow and troubles in daily living. Surround them with caring friends and compassionate professionals. Restore them to our fellowship that they may be grounded in genuine joy and peace.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, your blessings are endless. Today we join with our new Confirmands praising your goodness and mercy. Bless them as they continue on in their journey of faith. Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace + of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI # 465 "Adoring Praises Now We Bring"

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!

(Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt. Copyright (c) 1958 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI License #1443048)

(Please be seated)

10:30 *The Confirmands will commune first*

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN # 623 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

HYMN # 589 "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens"

HYMN # 658 "Preserve Your Word, O Savior"

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 118:1

Pastor: We give thanks, heavenly Father, that your goodness knows no bounds. As you have provided leaders of Christ's Church through the ages, so also in this Sacrament you have strengthened our faith that we might be bold witnesses, engaging in acts of mercy. Graciously be with us, forgive us, and guide us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 662 "Onward Christian Soldiers"

(10:30 The Confirmands will process out)

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Soloist
Music Coordinator
Choir Director

Pastor Harold Bender Jr.
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Debbie Bruss, Jane Adams, Pam Akey
Erynn Biedenbender, April M DelaCotera, Jonathan Burkee
Roger Gottschalk
Pastor Tom Hinz
Kim Woller
Nancy Hoelke

2012 St. Paul's Confirmands

Noelle Elizabeth Berg

Ashley Marie Crist

Samantha Jacquelyn Elmer

Nicholas Michael Erdmann

Dana Ann Gall

Ashley Nicole Heder

Nora Gray Hufsey-Fleming

Alexander James Igielski

Meghan Elaine Klement

Grace Marie Perez Kochiss

Megan Elizabeth Lewan

Melanie Rae Lirette

Madeleine Elizabeth Niggemann

Dyllan Bradlee Pekrul

Rachel Ann Peschong

David Michael Sarff

Sara Cassidy Schultz

Andrew Christopher Thoren

Kallie Margaret Thoren

David Jerome Ullerich

