

REFORMATION DAY THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

DIVINE REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

31385 W. Hill Road
Hartland, Wisconsin
262-367-8400

October 25, 2020

8:00 & 10:30AM

AS WE GATHER: Martin Luther's great hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is based on Psalm 46. When the psalm was first written, it gave courage to God's Old Testament people. Centuries later, when Luther wrote the hymn, the world was filled with plagues and death, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. In our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists and political polarization. Because of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, we need not fear. Our gracious God is a very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the powers of the created world around us and the forces of evil from every source. We know that in the end "the kingdom ours remaineth."

Today is also a day of celebration and joy. It is a time for family and friends to gather in support of the Confirmands. Today these young people confess their Christian faith as baptized children of God. Confirmation is not graduation, it is an ongoing walk with Christ throughout their lives. As we celebrate their faith today, may we also remain faithful to Christ reflecting who we are and to Whom we belong.

(Please: No flash photos during the worship service and remember to silence your devices.)

PRELUDE "The Church's One Foundation"

(by D. Grotenhuis)

Sterling & Brass, timpani, organ

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #644

"The Church's One Foundation"

(Please stand and face the processional cross at the rear of the sanctuary.)

All: The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Women: Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:

One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.

All: Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

Men: Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

All: Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 46

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength,
People: A very present help in trouble.

Pastor: Come, behold the works of the Lord.
People: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth.

Pastor: He will be exalted among the nations.
People: He will be exalted in the earth.

Pastor: The Lord of hosts is with us;
People: The God of Jacob is our fortress.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord of hosts,

People: Hear our confession of sins and grant us Your mercy and forgiveness. We have not trusted in Your promised protection and strength but have looked elsewhere for help and refuge. You alone have provided the remedy for that which truly causes our separation, troubles, and death. For the sake of Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from Your present help. We ask it in the name of Jesus.

Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. Because that river of grace and power has flowed over us in our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, in spite of our fear, the Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

By grace God has created each of us and everything that exists, and in the person of His Son entered our history and paid for our every sin and sin itself. In Christ's resurrection, God's promises have been made sure. 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. The Lord of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God, our refuge and strength, always present in trouble, silence our fears when Your good creation seems out of control and evil appears to run rampant.

People: Like the dawning of a new day, dispel the darkness of our hearts and renew confident faith in Your constant presence and gracious protection;

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

People: Amen.

THE COMMENDATION OF THE PARENTS

(Parents of the confirmands please stand.)

Pastor: Parents, we commend you for your faithfulness in the Christian training of these confirmands.

Since their Baptism, you have prayed for them, brought them to God's house for worship, and have insured that they were taught the essentials of the Christian faith. Though today they make a public confession of their faith, your prayers and

encouragement remain very important. Because of this, I ask: Will you now continue in fervent prayer for them, and support them in their Christian life?

Parents: Yes, with the help of God.

CONFESSION OF THE CONFIRMANDS (*Confirmands please stand.*)

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ: You were received into God's grace in Holy Baptism. Through Baptism you were freed from the power of sin and called to be disciples of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As His disciples, you have been instructed in the Word of God and in the true meaning of the Holy Sacraments according to the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church which are taken from the Word of God. At this time I invite you to confess the Christian faith into which you were baptized. Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

Confirmands: *Yes, I do.*

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

Confirmands: *Yes, I do renounce them.*

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

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

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

Confirmands: *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.*

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmands: *Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and the life everlasting.*

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

Confirmands: *I do.*

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

Confirmands: *I do.*

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

Confirmands: *I do so intend with the help of God.*

Pastor: 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?

Confirmands: *I do so intend with the help of God.*

Pastor: Do you intend to remain steadfast in the true confession of our Christian faith and suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Confirmands: *I do so intend with the help of God.*

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Pastor: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do His good pleasure, it is fitting for us to call on Him to complete the good work which He has begun in our confirmands through Holy Baptism. Let us pray.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing Your children to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them

with hearts to believe and mouths 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:4-8

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens. 5 When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, 6 and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— 7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Psalms 139:11-18

*If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.
13 For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,*

when as yet there was none of them.
17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand)

All: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-7

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man

sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud 7 and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

"Formed Again"

Pastor Seth Flick

HYMN OF THE DAY (please stand)

#657

"A Mighty Fortress is our God"

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might.
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God Himself elected.

You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is He,
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
 All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
 They cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage.
 His might is doomed to fail;
 God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
 No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side
 With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
 Though life be wrenched away,
 They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

OFFERTORY *"A Mighty Fortress"*
(arr. Tim Carpenter)
Sterling & Brass

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for all people in their varied circumstances. O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, strengthen the Church here and wherever it gathers around Your Word and celebrates the blessed Sacraments. Grant confident faith to clergy and laity, pastors in congregations and missionaries in distant lands, elders in the faith and newly baptized alike. Help us to put all our trust in Your protection and power. The Lord of hosts is with us;

People: **The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we thank and praise You for these young people, who, on this day of their Confirmation, have made bold and courageous confession of their Baptismal faith. We pray, that by Your Spirit, you might keep them strong in their faith, obedient to Your Holy Word, and faithful even unto death. We also praise and thank you for their parents, family, sponsors, and all who have supported them from infancy until this day. Bless their families and

all those in their lives who have witnessed the Christian faith to these Your children. The Lord of hosts is with us:

People: **The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Pastor: Strong Creator, wherever people call out to You as the earth gives way, mountains move into the heart of the sea, and mountains tremble, hear their cries and keep them safe. Awaken courage and wisdom in those who search and rescue, those who provide physical and spiritual counsel, and those who offer long-term support of body and life. The Lord of hosts is with us;

People: **The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, use the earthly powers that be to move the nations and their leaders to seek ways toward peace with their neighbors and stability within their borders. You, who make wars cease to the end of the earth, provide courage and compassion to all who work for peace and protection as they are deployed abroad and all who maintain concord and order within our communities. The Lord of hosts is with us;

People: **The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Pastor: Gracious God, stream joy and gladness to those who wait for the dawning of a new day, those dealing with long-term ills, unemployment, discrimination, unjust imprisonment, strife in their families, and the loss of loved ones. Assure them that You are with them, even now a very present help in trouble. The Lord of hosts is with us;

People: **The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, worthy to be exalted among the nations, into Your almighty hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray. Hear our prayer for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

COMMUNION OF THE CONFIRMANDS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, you have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
People: We rejoice in this gift of God!

Pastor: You are made to be His workmanship, walking daily in His Word.
People: We rejoice in the Word that sets us free!

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN #575 *“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”*

(Please turn and face the processional cross
as it exits the sanctuary.)

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Refrain

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

3 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. Refrain

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain

POSTLUDE

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