

CONFIRMATION

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension Sunday and Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 21, 2023



**TODAY'S OFFERING OF WORSHIP
THIS SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ASCENSION SUNDAY AND CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

We gather together...

INTROIT

String Band

WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, let us come to worship the God who raised His Son, our Lord,
from death to life.

**Praise God whose love has defeated sin, death,
and all that opposes God.**

God further exalted the Son, making his Christ Lord of all—all things and all people.

**Praise Jesus Christ who as ascended in power and glory
over all things and all people.**

May our worship this day call all people to claim or reclaim their faith
in the risen and ascended Lord.

Praise the Spirit who will amplify our praise to God and to the world.

ALL: With renewed faith, let us worship our God!

***HYMN #265: All Hail the Power of Jesus Name!**

***INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day 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 yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

...to hear God's Word...

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11 (*New Testament page 118*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Amen.**

PSALM

Psalms 93 (*Old Testament page 549*)

Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23 (*New Testament page 192*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Amen.**

***GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 24:44-53 (*New Testament page 91*)

The Gospel of our Lord, God's living Word. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN #368:** *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

HOMILY: *Rev. Todd Johnson*

...and to respond with our lives...

***HYMN #374:** *Savior, While My Heart is Tender (Verse 1)*

ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION

CONFIRMATION LITANY

WHO IS GOD?

God is personal, eternal Spirit, creator of the universe, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father.

“Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” *(Psalm 90:1-2)*

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE?

We believe in the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living.” *(2 Timothy 3:16)*

WHAT IS GOD’S RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD?

God created the world by his Word, sustains it by God’s power, and entrusts it to the care of human beings.

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” *(Psalm 24:1)*

Reflection by Catelyn Anderson

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A HUMAN BEING?

To be a human being is to be created by God in his likeness, free and responsible in relation to God, the world, neighbor, and self.

“Then God said, ‘And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have stewardship of the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.’” *(Genesis 1:26)*

Reflection by Signe Blomgren

WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is all in thought, word, and deed that is contrary to the will of God.

“Everyone who knows what is the right thing to do and doesn’t do it commits a sin.”

(James 4:17)

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF SIN?

The results of sin are broken relationships, a weakening of ability to obey God, and finally, eternal separation from him.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 6:23)

Reflection by Jonah Scranton

WHAT IS MEANT BY A COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND HIS PEOPLE?

A covenant between God and God’s people is an agreement in which God promises his care and faithfulness as his people respond in faithful obedience.

“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.”

(Deuteronomy 7:9)

WHAT IS GOD’S PROVIDENCE?

God’s providence is the care by which God upholds all that God has created and guides all according to God’s wisdom.

“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

(Matthew 6:26)

WHAT IS SALVATION?

Salvation is the work of God through Christ which liberates people from sin and restores them to a right relationship with God.

“Salvation is to be found through Christ alone; in all the world there is no one else whom God has given who can save us.” *(Acts 4:12)*

WHO ARE THE PROPHETS?

Prophets are chosen by God to show nations and individuals their sin, to call them to obedience, and to present the hope of the Messiah.

“The Sovereign Lord has filled me with his Spirit. He has chosen me and sent me to bring good news to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to announce release to captives and freedom to those in prison. He has sent me to proclaim that the time has come when the Lord will save his people and defeat their enemies.” *(Isaiah 61:1, 2a)*

WHO IS THE MESSIAH?

The Messiah is Jesus of Nazareth, God’s Son, promised through the prophets. He came into the world to free people from sin and establish God reign on earth.

“‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” *(Matthew 16:15b-16)*

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

The kingdom of God is the reign of God expressed in the hearts and lives of his people both now and through eternity.

“The kingdom of God does not come visibly, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is among you.” *(Luke 17:20b-21)*

Reflection by Axel Nelson

WHAT DID JESUS TEACH US CONCERNING LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Jesus taught us that life in the kingdom of God means we are to live in a loving relationship with God, self, and others.

“And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”
(Matthew 22:37, 39)

WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER?

The Lord’s Supper is the sacred use of bread and the cup as commanded by Jesus Christ. In communion with one another we remember his suffering for us, proclaim his death until he comes, and partake of him in faith.

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

WHAT IS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST?

By the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God conquers sin, death, and the Devil, offering forgiveness for sin and assuring eternal life for those who follow Christ.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
(John 3:16)

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is God everywhere present and powerful, working in us, in the church, and in the world.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

(2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

Reflection by Phia Waite

WHAT IS MEANT BY ATONEMENT?

Atonement means the work of God in Jesus Christ by which we, being guilty, are justified; being enslaved to sin, are redeemed; being alienated from God, are reconciled; and being unholy, are sanctified.

“Now, by means of the physical death of his Son, God has made you his friends, in order to bring you holy, pure, and faultless into his presence.”

(Colossians 1:22)

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH?

The Christian Church is all who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and who are united in one body with Christ as head.

“Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

(Ephesians 4:15-16)

Reflection by Wesley Nelson

WHAT IS THE CHRISTIAN HOPE?

The Christian hope is a confident expectation of Christ's coming in triumph when he shall reign forever with his Church.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade—kept in heaven for you...”

(1 Peter 1:3-4)

Reflection by Elsie Nelson Brown

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God, celebrate new life in Christ, build up one another in faith and love, proclaim and teach the gospel everywhere, and care for the needs of the world.

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Christ who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

(1 Peter 2:9)

WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM?

Baptism is the sacred use of water, commanded by Jesus Christ, to signify God's cleansing of our sins and our welcome into the family of God.

“Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

(Matthew 28:19-20)

HOW DO WE BECOME CHRISTIANS?

We become Christians by faith in what God has done for us in Christ's death and resurrection. This is God's gift which we receive through personal repentance of sin and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

HOW DO WE GROW AS CHRISTIANS?

We grow as Christians as we regularly receive God's grace in Word, worship, and sacrament, in study and prayer, and in fellowship and service with the Church.

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

(2 Peter 3:18)

***HYMN #374: Savior, While My Heart is Tender** (Verse 2)

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

BLESSING OF THE CONFIRMANDS

Axel John Nelson

Catelyn Jean Anderson

Elsie Evelyn Nelson Brown

Jonah Thomas Scranton

Signe Tessera Blomgren

Sophia Elena Waite

Wesley Patrick Nelson

***HYMN #374: Savior, While My Heart is Tender** (Verse 3)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
HYMNAL #962

OFFERINGS TO GOD

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

...in the places we now go.

***HYMN #671: On Our Way Rejoicing**

A WORD OF GRATITUDE

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Join us after the service for a coffee and cake reception
for the Confirmands, downstairs in Fellowship Hall.*

Welcome!





TODAY'S FLOWERS

The flowers this morning are in honor of our **Confirmands**.
We pray God's blessings on them in this new step in their faith journey.

GREETERS: George and Claire Scranton

READERS: Trevor and Jonah Scranton

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Andrea Johnson

USHER: Corbin Sheffels

COFFEE SERVERS: *[Confirmation reception]*

ACOLYTES: Parents of Confirmands

LIVESTREAM: Kendall Magnuson

