



By Lukas Wagner

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Confirmation Worship Service – Konfirmation

April 2, 2023 – 2. April 2023, 10:30am

Welcome to our worship today, celebrating Confirmation, that is affirmation of baptism. Today our young people declare for themselves that they will live out the promises made for them by their parents and sponsors in their baptisms. They will make that statement of faith in the hope and trust that God will continue to lead and guide them in all the aspects of their lives now and in the future.

The order below will help you to find your way through our service. Liturgy and some hymns are printed in the bulletin, hymns not printed will be found in the English red hymnbook or the blue German hymnal.

P (Pastor) L (Lector) C (Congregation)

Ringling of the bells

Prelude

Dubravko Pajalic

Welcome

Gathering Hymn # 858: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Eingangslied # 317, 1 – 3 & 5: Lobe den Herren

Confession and forgiveness

Confirmands only: Ever-Living God, You give life and breath to your whole creation and watch over us. Strengthen us, keep us in your care. When life is uncertain and risky and we are not sure we can trust you with our whole heart, then help us to believe in your guidance.

Families of confirmands only: And so, gracious God, we call upon you for you will answer us. When our children's steps will not always hold to your paths, set them on your right ways, embracing them in your steadfast love.

Confirmands only: Encourage us and calm our fears as we pray. Teach us to trust in your power to save and guide us in every circumstance. Grant us your peace.

C: That all our hearts would be open to you, O God. That we may release every defense against your Spirit's guidance. That we would receive the wisdom you intend for us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

P: Take heart: God hears your prayers. Listen: God calls to you with hope, with forgiveness, with life. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen

Prayer of the Day (unison)

Living God, through your Spirit, pour your love into our hearts, your grace into our lives, your healing into our world. May the grace of Jesus Christ, springing up like living water, fill our hearts and flow through our lives. Amen

A reading from the New Testament, Colossians 3, 12 – 14:

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, courage. Be even-tempered, content, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as Jesus forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other.

Psalm 42 by the choir. Refrain by all:

Maria Koebisch

As The Deer

Psalm 42:1 Refrain

You a-lone are my strength, my shield To You a-lone may my spi-rit

yield You a-lone are my heart's de-sire and I long to wor-ship Thee.

As the deer panteth (longs) for the water so my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee. *(Refrain)*
I want You more than gold or silver only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver And the apple of my eye. *(Refrain)*
You're my friend and You are my brother even though You are a King
I love You more than any other so much more than anything. *(Refrain)*

The Gospel according to Luke 15, 11 – 32: The Story of the Son Lost and Found

Jesus said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

“That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. **His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him.** The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here - given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ **And they began to have a wonderful time.**

“All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done, he came in. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef! —because he has him home safe and sound.’

“The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

“His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. **This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!**’”

Sermon -Predigt

Hymn of the Day: Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

The offering is gathered. Thank you.

487 **SEEK YE FIRST** TRUST/HOLY SPIRIT

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek, and
3. You do not live by bread alone, but by

1. righ - teous - ness, And all these things shall be
2. ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be
3. ev - 'ry word That pro - ceeds from the

1. add - ed un - to you. } Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
2. o - pened un - to you. }
3. mouth of God. }

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al -
le - lu - ia, al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

*May be sung as a two-voice canon.
Text: Based on Matthew 6:33; Karen Lafferty, b. 1948.
Music: Karen Lafferty.
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Member of council: **I present Carina von Trebra, Dima Ristau, Lukas Wagner and Tyler Melvin who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.**

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce evil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each student responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Carina, Dima, Lukas and Tyler and to pray for them in their lives in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Carina: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

Dima: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Lukas: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Tyler: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

P: Let us rejoice with our sisters and brothers in Christ:

All: We rejoice with you. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Greetings from Jason Schroth, President of St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Prayers of the people - P: God, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer**

Holy Communion – Das Heilige Abendmahl

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise

P: It is indeed right...*concluding:* We praise your name and join the unending hymn:

Hymn # 414, 1 & 2: Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Lied # 331, 1 & 2: Großer Gott, wir loben Dich

Words of institution - Einsetzungsworte

The Lord's Prayer – Das Vaterunser

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today 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.

Vaterunser im Himmel, geheiligt werde dein Name. Dein Reich komme, dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel also so auf Erden. Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute. Und vergib uns unsere Schuld, wie auch wir vergeben unseren Schuldigern. Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung, sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen. Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.

Invitation to the table: *We ask that the newly confirmed come to the table first.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Blessing – Dankesgebet und Segen

Sending Hymn # 840: Now Thank We All Our God

Sendungslied # 321: Nun danket alle Gott

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God Postlude