



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

MAY 3, 2026 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen! During the Easter Season, we celebrate resurrection—the resurrection of Jesus as well as our own. We are God's new creation, filled with the undying life of our Savior. As the Spirit fills the Church on Pentecost, this life invigorates God's people for mission and ministry. *This is Part 5 of a year-long series, "A Year in Matthew."*

P Pastor **C** Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 477 *"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"*

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS (8:00 am)

1 John 1:8-9

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful
and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us
from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are
by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned
against You in thought, word, and deed, by
what we have done and by what we have left
undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We justly deserve Your present and eternal
punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us,
and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will
and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.
Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by

At this morning's 10:30 service, we repent and return to God's grace as we participate in the baptismal liturgy rather than through a spoken confession of sins and announcement of forgiveness. Repentance is "nothing else than a return and approach to baptism, to resume and practice what has earlier been begun but abandoned" (Martin Luther's Large Catechism).

His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

BAPTISM OF ISABELLE RUTH LANGE (10:30 am)

EASTER GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN OF PRAISE “This Is the Feast”

Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9; for text and tune, see page 155.

Refrain: (sing) **This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.** *Refrain*

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing and glory are His.** *Refrain*

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

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia.** *Refrain*

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Psalm 95:1–2*

G Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

FIRST READING *Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60*

In response to the increasing needs of the increasing number of disciples, seven deacons are chosen to serve in a role of compassionate service. Stephen, one of the deacons selected, is later martyred for his faith and witness.

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those

who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he

cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Peter 2:2–10*

The life and ministry of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the Church. Through Him we are a “chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession.”

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe,

but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *John 6:68; for text and tune, see page 156.*

C (sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

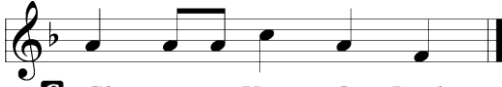
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 12:1–21*

After His disciples gather grain on the Sabbath day, Jesus goes into a synagogue and heals a man. Jesus is the patient, compassionate Servant described in Isaiah 42:1–3.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twelfth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. ²But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” ³He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: ⁴how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? ⁵Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? ⁶I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. ⁷And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.” ⁹He went on from there and entered their synagogue. ¹⁰And a man was there with a withered hand. And they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—so that they might accuse him.

¹¹He said to them, “Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹²Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” ¹³Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And the man stretched it out, and it was restored, healthy like the other. ¹⁴But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. ¹⁵Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶and ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁸“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; ²⁰a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; ²¹and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN 667 “*Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses*”

SERMON *Called to Live: “Living as Servants of the Servant”*

CONFESSION OF FAITH (8:00 am)

Martin Luther’s explanation of the Second Article of the Apostle’s Creed

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:

SOLO “*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*” setting *Art Fliege* (8:00 am)

DUET “*Consecration*” by *John Ness Beck* (10:30 am)

RITE OF CONFIRMATION (10:30 am; *see insert.*)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.





We receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

The service continues with the Preface on page 160 in the hymnal.

We believe that in the Lord's Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord's Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail; please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

For those who require it, diluted wine is found in the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups; gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

HYMN 594

“God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

HYMN 411

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

HYMN 687

“Thine Forever, God of Love”

HYMN 861

“Christ Be My Leader”

In preparation to receive Holy Communion, you may consider the following questions:

- Am I sorry for my sins?
- Do I believe Jesus is my Savior and that He is truly present in this sacrament?
- Do I wish to live my life the way God intends?



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

The service concludes with the Post-Communion Canticle ("Thank the Lord"), Post-Communion Collect, and Benediction on pages 164–166.

EASTER GREETING

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

RECESSIONAL HYMN 685 *"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"*

SENDING & POSTLUDE

- P** Go in peace; serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: The Christian life is a daily ministry of service. We serve the ultimate Servant, Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our eternal salvation.



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Quotation on page 1 from Robert Kolb and Timothy J. Wengert, eds., *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000), 466.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Louisa Lehenbauer, *Violin (8:00 am)*

Elaina Rankin, Elijah Rankin, *Duet (10:30 am)*

Claira Martens, Rachel Martens, *Trumpet (10:30 am)*

Eian Grass, *Crucifer (8:00 am)*

Konner McKnight, *Crucifer (10:30 am)*

Quinn Marsh, Olivia Harrington, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Olivia Strobel, Elena Strecker, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Stan & Kathryn Oetting, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

Richard & Linda Strobel, *Greeters (10:30 am)*

John Beerman, Andy Jones, Mark Schelp, *Elders on Duty*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.

Our pastor "on call" number in case of emergency is (660) 580-5483.

New: Sharon Woodrich, Addie Ziegelbein, Rollie Beerman, Donald Dedeke, Virgil Gramenz, Hudson Kloos, Nicole Maxwell, Alan Luebbert, Lisa Arnett, Ron Roepe, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos, Susan Reeves

Ongoing: Richard Cordes, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Diane Stumpenhous, Ken Wodrich, Les Bruns, Wilmer Bredehoeft, Melba Poese, Bridget Kageman, Paul Brackman, Baby Felix, Gene Virus, Harry Rehkop, Nolan Kirby, Jon Spells, Joe Connell, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, Donnie Fiene, Rev. Perry Copus, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerdts, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Lari Huntze, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Nation and World: the people of Switzerland

Partners in Mission: Zion Lutheran Church; Poplar Bluff, MO and Rev. Justin Sponaugle; Lutheran Braille Workers; seminarians and deaconess students who received their vicarage placements, internships, and calls last week (Matthew Rudowske will serve as Vicar at Our Savior Lutheran Church; Baraboo, WI and Trinity Lutheran Church; Wisconsin Falls, WI)

Birthdays: (5/3) Virgil Hasselbring; (5/4) Aaron Brandt, Donald Johnson, Kasyn Knight, Thomas Lyons, Makenzie Krause, Katelyn Rankin, Stacey Steinkuhler; (5/5) Christopher Kuecker, April Todd; (5/6) Sierra Duncan, Rev. Bart Mueller, Kristina Strobel, Brian Woods; (5/7) Jewel Koonce, Kerby McKnight, Yu Chu (Jane) Page; (5/8) Tina Bredehoeft, Liam Clayton; (5/9) Richard Cordes

Anniversaries: (5/4) Ray & Lari Huntze; (5/6) James & Florence Evert, Trent & Joanna Kuecker, Craig & Candy Poese; (5/9) James & Terri Meyer

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

I find myself missing my dad at this time of year. He's been gone 2 ½ years now. I see the rows of corn in the fields starting to pop up and remember my dad being very meticulous about straight rows long before GPS. There was one stretch of bottom ground that was by the road that he was particularly careful about. As I was scratching around in my garden this weekend, I found myself wanting to ask him, "How deep do I plant my corn?" "How far apart do I need to space these bean seeds?" I remember when I was little, Dad would say, "Look, like this, Gina." He would plant, and I would watch. Then he would say, "It's your turn." His words echo through my head at various times. My selfish, earthly self wishes he were still here, but my believing self says, "Thank you, Lord, for the days that you gave him upon this earth, and thank you for taking him to be with you. Thanks for taking care of him." I would not want to deprive my dad of heavenly joys and trade them for earthly endeavors no matter how much I miss him. I find that my Heavenly Father also speaks to me through His Word, even though He is not visibly and physically present. He whispers, "Look, Gina, like this," as I read an especially applicable verse of scripture to help me through my day. Sometimes I am the vehicle through which God works as I say to my students, "Look, like this." May God continue to guide and grow us, as well as these confirmands that have confessed their belief in Him today. May that seed of faith grow richly and deeply in our hearts, and theirs, as it is fertilized and watered through His Word and Sacraments. May the Holy Spirit root himself within us, maturing that seed of faith, and may our earthly hands provide sound guidance to nurture these young people as they travel life's way.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Acts 17:16–31; 1 Peter 3:13–22; Matthew 21:12–22

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 474, 691, 483, 627, 821, 490

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Who is the Holy Spirit?

The explanation of the Small Catechism says, the Holy Spirit is “the third person in the Holy Trinity, true God with the Father and Son.” This means that we believe in one true God, in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God just as the Father is God and the Son is God.

What does the Holy Spirit do?

The Holy Spirit sanctifies God’s people. In other words, He makes us holy by giving us saving faith in Jesus and the strength to lead godly lives in His name.

Why is the Holy Spirit so important?

We need the Holy Spirit and what He gives to us, because without Him, we are not able to believe in Jesus. In 1 Cor. 2:14 we hear the following: “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” The Holy Spirit calls us to faith through the Gospel and delivers the gracious gifts of salvation in the Sacraments.



Parents:

During the service, tell your children to listen for times the Pastor says the name of the Holy Spirit (i.e. the Invocation, Benediction). Remind your children that the Holy Spirit is exactly where God promised us He would be — in the Word and Sacraments. He comes to us by no other means than through these gracious gifts.



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"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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