

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

1:30 p.m. Confirmation Service
Affirmation of Baptism for Ninth Graders
November 14th, 2021

We give thanks and celebrate with these ninth-grade confirmands as they affirm their baptisms today. Confirmation is about much more than “graduating” to adult membership in the church.

It is the process by which young Christians learn the basics of what we believe, what the Bible is and how to read it, and what it means to be Lutheran, so that they may then discern for themselves, with the help of the Holy Spirit, what it is that they believe. It is our hope that, through the process of confirmation, these gifted and spirit-filled young people acquire a relevant, meaningful understanding who God is, what God is up to in the world, and how God sees them in the midst of life's many challenges and facets.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

In holy baptism, God, the Father, Son, and Spirit frees us from the forces of evil, puts our sinful self to death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children, and makes us members of the body of Christ, the church.

Our baptism sets us out on a lifelong journey that is characterized by our relationship to God, our relationship to our faith community, and our relationships in the world. Living our baptismal covenant means living a life of growth in the faith practices of discipleship.

Today, on behalf of the whole Christian church, we promise to support these young adults—our siblings in Christ—as they affirm the promises once made for them by parents and sponsors. We give thanks to God for the gift of faith that has been stirred up in them and the work of the Spirit that continues from this day forward. We welcome you to this time of worship, as we join in professing the faith we receive through God's Holy Spirit.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gathering Song

Lord, Our God, We Now Implore You

1. Lord, our God, we now im - plore You, Send Your Spir - it
 2. May they be con - tent to serve You, Ev - er in Your
 3. Take de - light to show them mer - cy, Mer - cies new each
 with Your grace. Bless these youth who come be - fore You,
 king - dom live. May no e - vil ev - er swerve You
 break of day. Then, O Lord, in all Your glo - ry
 Seal them in Your cho - sen race. Bless their wit - ness, bless their pro - mise,
 From the love You free - ly give. Ne - ver leave them or fore - sake them,
 Lead them in Your right - eous way. May they will to seek You on - ly,
 Till they see You face to face, Till they see You face to face.
 But in mer - cy still for - give, But in mer - cy still for - give.
 Keep their hearts, O Lord, we pray, Keep their hearts, O Lord, we pray.

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Opening Confirmation Litany

Walking with Christ is a journey of faith.

We may not know where God is leading.

We may not see a clear path in front of us.

We may not understand our circumstances.

We likely won't have answers to the "why" questions.

We sometimes won't like what unfolds along the way.

Hardship, suffering, illness and loss challenge us and require great trust.

We won't always see God's hand or recognize God's voice.

Walking with Christ is a journey of faith.

Therefore, we choose to trust even in the midst of doubt or fear.

We look for evidences of God's grace and mercy.

We hope in the One whose faithfulness and love are never ending. Let us walk with Christ this day.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Gracious God, as we gather this day to witness and celebrate the rite of confirmation, touch us all again with the grace of our baptism. Give us new lives for old, new spirits, new faith, and new commitment, in place of all that has grown tired and stale and dead in our lives. Strengthen us for our journeys, so that we may rise and go from here to meet whatever awaits us, in joy and trust. Renew in us a heart for Christ, dedication to the work of his church, and love for each other, all brothers and sisters in Christ.

Amen.

Word

(Please be seated)

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from 1st Kings, Chapter 3.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in

righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.

And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:9-13

A reading from 1st Corinthians, chapter 13.

For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

#512 Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, — o - pen to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, — where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. — When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. — When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart. Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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Gospel

Matthew 16:9-13

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16th Chapter.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Gospel Message

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Affirmation of Baptism

Reflections on the Class

Sharing of Faith Papers

Opening Statement

Siblings in Christ, from time to time we experience a new beginning in our faith journey, when the Holy Spirit breaks into our lives to inspire us, to lead us, and to deepen our commitment to Christ. Today, we praise the Lord for what has been happening in these young adult lives.

Presentation of the Class – Gretchen Haugse

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

[I present _____ who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.]

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called *them* to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

(Please stand as you are able)

Profession of Faith

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

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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.**

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.**

Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly

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 hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
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?

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

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

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

(Please be seated)

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

*[Stir up in **name** the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**]*

Congregational Blessing

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

(Please stand as you are able)

Prayers of Intercession

Confident in God's steadfast love through Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs..

...Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Teach us to pray, O God, and grant to all for whom we pray the good gifts that you have promised, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Now we are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

The peace of the Lord be with you this day.

And also with you.

Thanksgiving

(Please be seated)

Offering Hymn

#798 Will You Come and Follow Me

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory Prayer

God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit. God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that honors each other, to serve others with joy, to share our love and material possessions. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

Sending Prayer

Members of the family of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you into Christ's family as you were once welcomed through the waters of Baptism. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation, we renew our covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Confirmands: The Holy Spirit sends us out in ministry to proclaim the good news to the poor, righteousness to the nations, and peace among all people. The Spirit is our source of life. We go now, renewed with God's spirit.

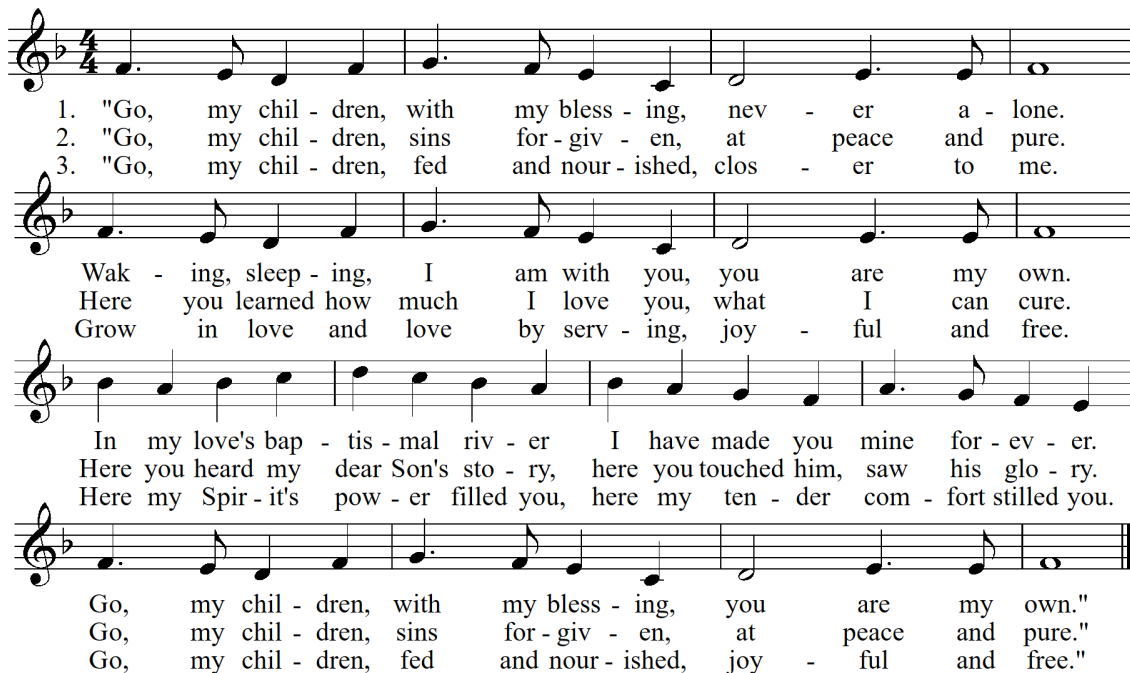
Benediction

You, Child of a most loving and merciful God, have been blessed by the Baptismal Font, this community, the bread and wine, the Holy Scriptures, and the Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May the love you have heard about, participated in, and been freely given, shine in you and from you into the world. Go forth in peace, all my brothers and sisters. Go forth in peace to spread the Gospel message. **Amen.**

The students each light a candle, signifying their baptismal candle and the Holy Spirit's presence as they go forth from the sanctuary and into the world with God's blessing.

Sending Song

#543 Go, My Children with My Blessing



1. "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2. "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3. "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

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Dismissal

To you, God's faithful people, both newly confirmed and continuously confirmed, go in peace and declare how much God has done for you.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude