



May 7, 2023
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Seymour, IN

THE 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER/CONFIRMATION May 7 & 8, 2023

Welcome to Worship! Everywhere you look people are wrestling with the question of identity, "Who am I?" So many people are searching for something or someone to tell them who they are, where they belong and how they relate to the world and one another. Despite many answers to this question, many still find themselves experiencing an identity crisis. Yet our reading from 1 Peter today moves us from being in an identity crisis to finding our identity in Christ.

A special welcome to visitors and guests today!

10:15 A.M.—NO BIBLE CLASSES TODAY, since it is Confirmation Sunday.

A Nursery is available below the entrance on Walnut St. and a Comfort Room is in the Atrium. The Nursery is not staffed at this time.

Holy Communion will be offered at **11:15**. The Common Cup will be available as in the past to those who desire it and will be cleansed and rotated between persons. If you prefer an individual cup, please take one from the tray. Wine with alcohol removed is in the tray center. If you are not a confirmed member of the Lutheran Church, please contact an elder or pastor before communing.

+THE ORDER OF SERVICE+

THE PRELUDE: 9:00 & 11:15 "Come Follow Me the Savior Spake" – Jean Pasquet

7:00 "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won!"

THE OPENING HYMN: "Now all the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

Hymn 465

1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds In praise of love that still abounds:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!

Repeat their song of glory here: "Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Eternal is the gift He brings, Therefore our heart with rapture sings:

"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still He comes to give us life

And by His presence stills all strife. Christ has triumphed! He is living!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above

That we conquer through Your triumph; Grant grace sufficient for life's day

That by our lives we truly say: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

D4 Adoring praises now we bring And with the heav'nly blessed sing:

"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father and our Lord,

To Spirit blest, most holy God, All the glory, never ending!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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+++ 9:00 THE BAPTISM of MIA PAGE BORCHERDING, Page 268

Parents: Will & Kamille (Brawner) Borcharding

Sponsors: Erika Horton & Andi Pollert Witness: LaTisha Idlewine

THE RESPONSES: (L: Leader; C: Congregation)

L: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

C: Amen!

L: As God's baptized children, let us confess our sins, knowing His promise to forgive us.

C: We confess, O Lord, that we have sinned against You by selfish thoughts, hurtful words, and unloving actions. We deserve Your punishment, but plead for mercy for the sake of Christ, who died for those sins. Forgive us, Lord.

L: God desires not the death of the sinner, but that we repent and live! Because Jesus took your sins and died for them, He gives you life! As Scripture says in 1 John 1:7, "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin." In Christ, you are forgiven!

C: Amen! Thanks be to God!

L: Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD OF THE MONTH: (We speak together) And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. John 17:3

THE FIRST READING: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2, 51-60

Now 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. And 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. Therefore, 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. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And 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. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And 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. And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then 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. . . . And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . . You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which 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, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then 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. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

+++ 9:00 THE ANTHEM: "Christ Be My Leader"

THE EPISTLE READING: 1 Peter 2:2–10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you 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. For 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.” So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But 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. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C:** Praise to You, O Christ!

THE HYMN: “Glorious Things of You Are Spoken”

Hymn 648

- 1 Glorious things of you are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
 He whose word cannot be broken Formed you for His own abode.
 On the Rock of Ages founded, What can shake your sure repose?
 With salvation’s walls surrounded, You may smile at all your foes.
- 2 See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love,
 Well supply your sons and daughters And all fear of want remove.
 Who can faint while such a river Ever will their thirst assuage?
 Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, Never fails from age to age.
- 3 Round each habitation hov’ring, See the cloud and fire appear
 For a glory and a cov’ring, Showing that the Lord is near.
 Thus deriving from their banner Light by night and shade by day,
 Safe they feed upon the manna Which God gives them on their way.
- 4 Savior, since of Zion’s city I through grace a member am,
 Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Your name.

Fading are the world's vain pleasures, All their boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasures None but Zion's children know.

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THE SERMON: "Identity"

+++ **9:00 & 7:00 THE RENEWAL OF VOWS:** (see Order of Confirmation below)

+++ **11:15 THE PROMISES OF PARENTS AND SPONSORS**

*The **Parents** of the Confirmands will please stand.*

Pastor: God has entrusted the lives of these children to your care. Today they take a greater responsibility for their faith and life, but they still need your support. Will you continue to guide and direct, support and encourage your child in word, in deed, and in example?

Parents: Yes, with the help of God. (Parents may then be seated)

*The **Sponsors** of the Confirmands will please stand.*

Pastor: You were chosen to serve as sponsors when these students were baptized. We thank you for assisting their parents in bringing them up in the Christian faith. Will you still pray for and encourage these students that they may continue to grow in the Christian faith?

Sponsors: Yes, with the help of God.

*The **Sponsors** may be seated; the **Confirmands** will rise.*

+++ **11:15 THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION:**

Confirmation Address

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go 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 things that I have commanded You; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

Profession of Faith

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you renounce the devil?

R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

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

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

R *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.*

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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

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

R *I do.*

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

R *I do.*

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

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P 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?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

++++ 11:15 THE CONFIRMATION OF STUDENTS

THE CONFIRMATION HYMN: "Lift High the Cross"

Hymn 837 v. 1-3

ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain

3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain

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+++ 11:15 COMMUNION LITURGY:

HOLY COMMUNION:

Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ,... This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

C **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Distribution Hymns: 687, 633, 660, 722, 739

687 Thine Forever, God of Love

- 1 Thine forever, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be Here and in eternity!
- 2 Thine forever! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heav'nly friend, O defend us to the end!
- 3 Thine forever, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earthly strife.
Thou, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.

4 Thine forever! Shepherd, keep These Thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath Thy care, Let us all Thy goodness share.

5 Thine forever! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiv'n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

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633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His piercèd side. Alleluia!

2 Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast—Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

3 Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

Text: Public domain

660 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner; It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.

2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict In this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.

3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.

4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle, The next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.

Text: Public domain

722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

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739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

- 1 Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.
- 2 When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone, Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall. Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.
- 3 When the darkness appears And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone, At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand, Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

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Nunc Dimittis

- C O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

THE POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

THE BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you... C Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

Hymn 922

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.

In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—You are My own.

2 Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

3 Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

THE POSTLUDE: “Go, My Children with My Blessing” -Kevin Hildebrand

Preacher: Pastor Will Fredstrom **Lector:** Vicar Case Farney

Liturgists: Pastor James A. Rodriguez, Jr., Pastor Philip E. Bloch, Pastor Ralph Blumenberg

Organist: Paul Scheiderer **Monday Prelude:** Adam Sutton **9:00 Soloist:** Avery Hubbard

Immanuel's mission is to connect people to the life, calling, and community of Christ. Founded in 1870, Immanuel is a member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. We believe the Bible is God's inspired Word and that we are saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Please take a brochure from the Information Center, or visit us on-line at www.immanuelseymour.com.