



Confirmation Sunday

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 2, 2021

*When you see the asterisk * you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude Hymn —

“God Has Planted Christ the Vine”

Text by Adam M. Tice; Music by Marty Haugen



1. God has plant - ed Christ the vine in
2. As the branch - es grow and spread, God
3. How do we re - ceive God's care? Will
4. Love can grow a - bun - dant - ly and



rich and fer - tile soil, where sun-light, rain, and
works with skill - ful art, to prune the with - ered,
we, like bran - ches, grow? What sort of fruit will
shape the way we live. The Spir - it's fruit is



air com - bine to swell the grapes that
dry, and dead, and graft in shoots of
our lives bear to fill the vine with
ripe and free, for Je - sus says, “A -



yield the wine, re - ward - ing years of toil.
green in - stead so life can fill each part.
grapes to share? What kind of wine will flow?
bide in me and share the joy I give.”

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ,
that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Refrain



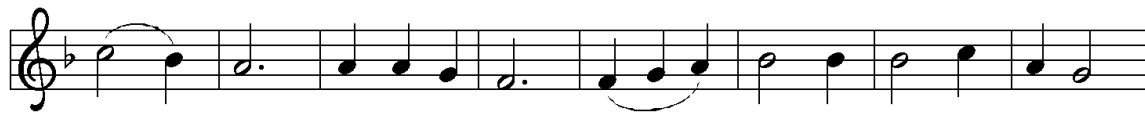
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



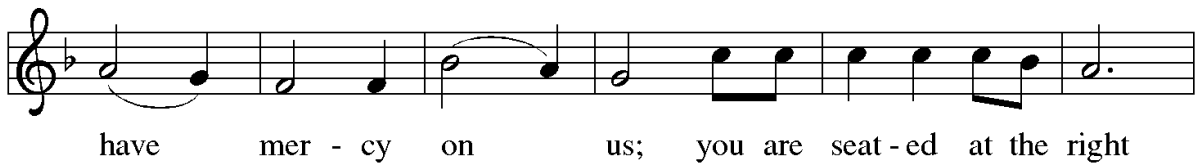
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



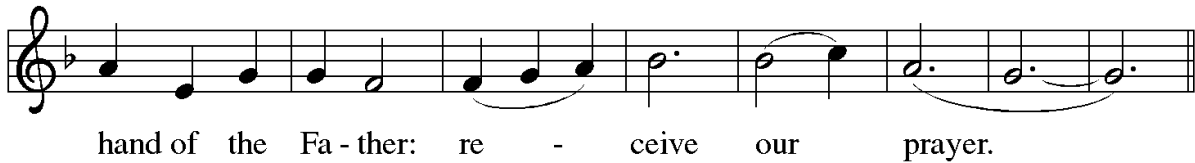
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



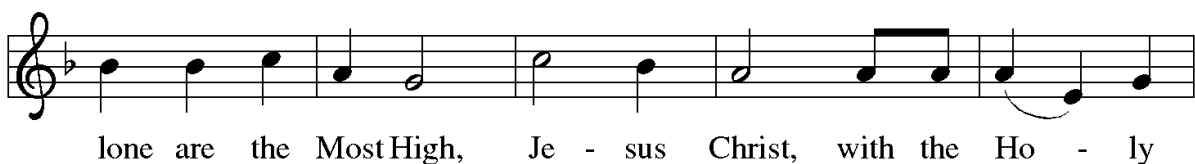
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



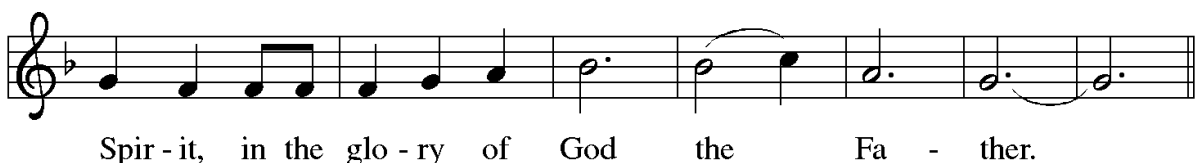
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -

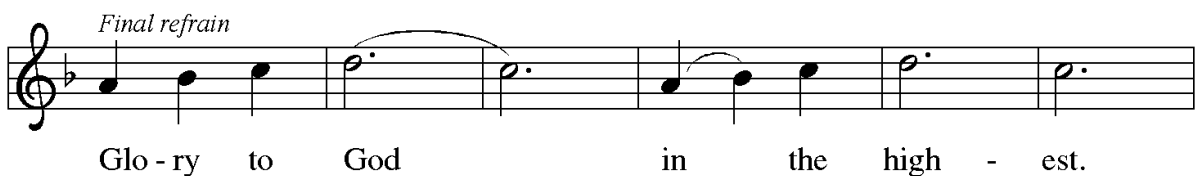


lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

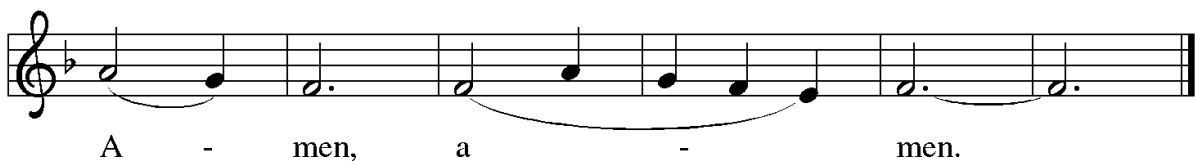


Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Final refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles — Acts 8:26-40

26An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.***

Psalm Interpretation

“When Tears Fall” based on Psalm 22, online only

From *Spark Story Bible Psalm Book: Prayers and Poems for Kids*

A Reading from the Epistles — 1 John 4:7-21

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God’s love was revealed among

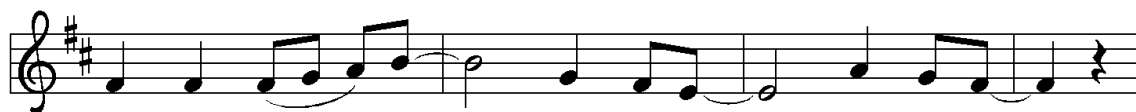
us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19We love because he first loved us. 20Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

Gospel Acclamation — from *ELW Setting 6, online only*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel — John 15:1-8

The Gospel of John, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

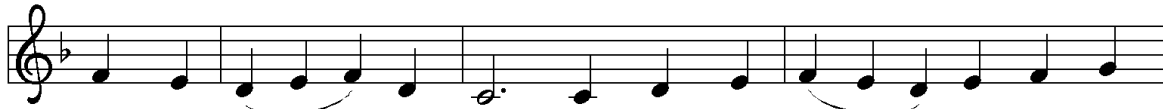
[Jesus said:] 1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
 2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
 3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
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 Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Service of Confirmation — *in-person only, see page 13*

*Affirmation of Faith — Apostles' Creed, *online only*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the power of 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.
 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. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. We give thanks today for our confirmation students in affirming their faith, and we ask for guidance as they continue their journey as fruit of the vine. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Offering

Please remember to give financially to support our ministry.

You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

Blessing

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We go from worship now to serve the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Bear good fruit, with Jesus, and with each other. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude — “Fugue in C Major”

Johann Pachelbel

Acknowledgements

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Blessing: “Call to Worship” by Joanna Harader, adapted, posted at <https://spaciousfaith.com/2011/02/02/wednesday-worship-pieces-3/>

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Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen

Cantor: Emily Bruflat

Lector/Assistant: Liam and Cole Engelhardt, Amelia Staples

Psalm reader: Ivy McHugh

Celebrate FLC's 2021 Confirmation Class



Isaac Alger

Baptismal Date: 2-12-2006

Parents: Steve and Chelsea Alger

Godparents/Sponsors: Scott and Chelsea Alger

Mentor: Jim Neubauer

Memorized Scripture: Romans 4:5

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far has been any activity outdoors."

Christiaan Mark Hajos

Baptismal Date: 2-12-2006

Parents: Margaretha Kramer and Jozseph Hajos

Godparents/Sponsors: Wichard Kramer

Mentor: Will Freiert

Memorized Scripture: Galatians 6:10



"My favorite memory at FLC thus far was Last year's FLC sleep-over. I really enjoyed it because it was a mixture of games, a movie, doing good for the community, and learning from the Bible, and all along the way there was a very nice feeling inside me. I just had a lot of fun, and did some good."



Tate Joseph Olson

Baptismal Date: 4-16-2006

Parents: Mande and Travis Olson

Godparents/Sponsors: Stefanie Menning and Lorna Sandvick

Mentor: Stefanie Menning

Memorized Scripture: Matthew 17:20

"My favorite memory at FLC thus far has been very inclusive confirmation classes where I could always expect to learn something new."

Rylee Marie Stadick

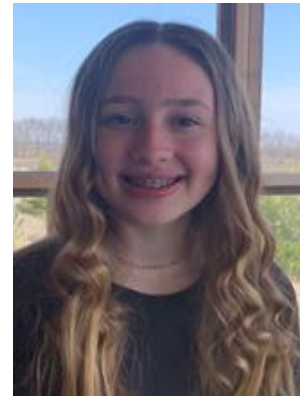
Baptismal Date: 11-20-2005

Parents: Cory and Jessica Stadick

Godparents/Sponsors: Brian and Deneal Stadick

Mentor: Dawn Kienlen

Memorized Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17



"One of my favorite memories at FLC thus far was attending Bible Camp the summer of 7th grade. I enjoyed the activities and getting to know other 7-9th grade confirmation students."



Hayden Stensrud

Baptismal Date: 2-5-2006

Parents: Adam and Jill Stensrud

Godparents/Sponsors: Brandon and Michelle Stensrud

Mentor: Brandon Stensrud

Memorized Scripture: Titus 2:7-8

"My favorite thing about belonging to FLC is using my skills to help and participate during services and projects."

Grace Louise Timm

Baptismal Date: 7-23-2006

Parents: Nancy and Jerry Timm

Godparents/Sponsors: Beth and Jeff Timm

Mentor: Nancy Thorkelson

Memorized Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-3



"My favorite memory at FLC thus far was the lock in last year."



Callie Louise Voeltz

Baptismal Date: 5-7-2006

Parents: Chris and Kris Voeltz

Godparents/Sponsors: Brian Haukoos and Alan Voeltz

Mentor: Michelle Doose

Memorized Scripture: 1 Peter 3:8

"My favorite thing about FLC thus far has been the program WOW, Worship on Wednesdays. I like the people I have spent time with at FLC. I have enjoyed getting to know and learn from Pastor Bill."

Presentation of Confirmands

Pastor: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these young people*, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

Confirmands should stand where they are (by their families) when the Director of Youth and Family Ministry, introduces them.

Director of Youth and Family Ministry: I present:

Isaac Alger
Christiaan Hajos
Tate Olson
Rylee Stadick
Hayden Stensrud
Grace Timm, and
Callie Voeltz.

These individuals *desire* to make public affirmation of *their* baptism.

Pastor: 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.**

*Affirmation of Faith

All (confirmands and congregation) please stand in body or in spirit.

Pastor: I ask you to respond to three “no” questions and three “yes” questions, in keeping with an ancient baptismal tradition.

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

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

Do you 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?

I believe.

Do you 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?

I believe.

Affirmation of Baptism

All may be seated. Pastor goes to each confirmand, who stands with each family group.

You have made a 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?

Confirmand responds:

Yes, with the help of God.

The family may lay hands on the person while the pastor says:

Holy and Loving God, stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit;
confirm *her/his* faith,
guide *her/his* life,
empower *her/him* in *her/his* serving,
give *her/him* patience in suffering,
and bring *her/him* to everlasting life. Amen.

After prayer, the family places the confirmand's personalized stole on the confirmand.

Once completed, the family sits. The confirmand then goes to the altar rail in his/her stole and faces the congregation.

Congregational Support

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

Yes, with the help of God.

Certificates of Confirmation and presents from the congregation and teachers are presented to the confirmands by the Director of Youth and Family Ministry and the Co-teachers.

Co-teacher: We rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ
We rejoice with you in the gift of baptism
We rejoice with you on this day of your confirmation.

Congregation: **Together we give thanks and praise to God
And proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Co-teacher: Remarks concerning the viewing of the confirmands' faith projects.

Closing Prayer for the Confirmands

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up in these special youth now confirmed in Christ
the gift of your Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and knowledge, the spirit of joy in your presence,
both now and forever. **Amen.**