

Redeemer Lutheran Church

San Antonio, Texas

October 29, 2023

Reformation / Confirmation / Baptism

NOTES: Offerings will not be collected by passing plates. Please place your attendance cards and offering in the plates located by the narthex.

Masks are not required, but you can wear one at your own discretion. There is no specified seating for bible class or worship.

Prelude

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Reading from Psalm 46

All: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he

burns the chariots with fire. “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!” The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”

The Opening Hymn and Procession of Confirmands:
“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” – LSB # 657

Pastor: Luther's last preserved writing was found on a table after he had died. The little scrap of paper contained just a few sentences and ended with these words: “We are beggars. That is the truth.”

Today we come to you, Abba Father, for help. As your Son, being true man and true God, called out to you to help him, so too we come, begging for your love, hope, grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

All: Heavenly Father, I am sorry for my sins, I have evil thoughts, I say evil things, I judge and condemn others, help me to remember that judgment is yours alone. I am sorry, forgive me and help me to change how I respond to things that I don't understand. My anger, my hate, and my judgments, won't change others, it only makes me feel worse. Forgive me.

I want to live as an example of Jesus' love toward others. I cannot change others, but I can pray for change in me first and then in others. I can pray dear Father, that as you love and change me, so too, you may in your time, and in your way change others to walk in your way. As you are patient with me, help me be patient with others. Help me to shine the light of your grace and hope upon others and pray for your help.

Pastor: God hears the cries of his children. And, as a good father disciplines, and loves his children, so too does our heavenly Father discipline us His children. Our pain comes from

our sin-stained heart. He has seen and heard, he has provided the answer in his Son Jesus, our Saviour and brother who has entered death for us on the cross, shed his blood, died, and rose again to bring us new life in him. Therefore, your sins have been atoned for, and you stand in forgiveness before the Father of all grace and mercy. Go in peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

¹⁵“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

The Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13

¹ For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. ³ For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, ⁴ but just as we have been

approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.⁵ For we never came with words of flattery, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness.⁶ Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, though we could have made demands as apostles of Christ.⁷ But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children.⁸ So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.⁹ For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.¹⁰ You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.¹¹ For you know how, like a father with his children,¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.¹³ And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Congregation: Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall

love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to You, O Christ.

We enter into a time of prayer starting with the Lord’s Prayer.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day 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.

Pastor: Now, having a framework for prayer, we petition God for intercession in the needs around us...

The Hymn of the Day:

“Let Me Be Thine Forever” – LSB # 689

The Rite of Holy Baptism

Mark A. Rodriguez, 12/08/ 2009 Levi Diaz, 01/07/2019
Elijah M. Cavender, 11/30/2013 Ember Morales, 06/26/2022
Emanuel L. Olivares, 07/21/2017 Iris Morales, 06/26/2022

The Rite of Confirmation

Pastor: Affirmations of Discipleship in the One True Church of Jesus Christ.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you through the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus your Savior: to die to the values of the world, to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God, to walk the way of Jesus, to 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, to strive for justice and peace in all the earth, rejecting the devil and all his works and all his ways, and standing on the biblical ground of the Reformation banner; "Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone?"

Confirmands and Family: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me. Amen.

Congregation and Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me. Amen.

Pastor: We are receiving into membership Maggie O'Larnic and Mark Rodriguez. These confirmands were accompanied in their instruction by Maggie's mother Mercy and occasionally her father John, and occasionally her grandmother Ruth. Mark's grandmother Joan accompanied him. These adults remained in the class with these confirmation disciples.

Pastor: The Confirmands have each written an essay which will now be read by Maggie's mother Mercy and Mark's grandmother Joan.

We also recognize family members of Joan Cavender who completed a family confirmation class and then the COVID-19 pandemic came! They are: Lynn Green, Nathan Cavender, Nicole Mendoza, Michael Mendoza, and Zavier Mendoza.

Now, we pray with the Confirmands and Their Family:

All: Gracious God, Send your Holy Spirit. Awaken in me the gifts of discipleship: 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, to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed:

Pastor: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

All: Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: And 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.

All: He descended into hell. On 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.

Pastor: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

All: the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastor: The story of Jesus' Church, as Luther wrote in the Small Catechism (explanation to the third article of the Apostles' Creed), is that the Holy Spirit "...calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and keep it united with Jesus Christ in the one true faith."

All: Now Lord, may we the Church, stand fast in Your Word among this everchanging world of eroding biblical morals and values, and yet demonstrate love for all in our living example as did our Savior Jesus, and in His name. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Altar

We remind ourselves of the same teaching the confirmands received from the commentary of the Lord's Supper lessons of Jesus given to us by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism and recorded in the Lutheran Service Book page 326-327 (Pastor asks the questions, and the congregation answers as printed in the hymnal).

Pre-Communion Hymn:

"Just As I Am" – LSB # 570

The Benediction (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Pastor: "May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Closing Hymn:

"Thine Forever, God of Love" – LSB # 687

Announcements:

Postlude

Please take the bulletin home or discard in the trash before you leave.