



I am the True Vine... You are the branches;
He who abides in me and I in him
will bear much fruit...
18/2008

Confirmation Sunday

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Tom Engelbrecht

May 2, 2021

17700 E Iliff Avenue, Aurora, CO 80013

www.christredeemer.church

303-337-3108

OPENING HYMN

"O Gracious Lord, With Love Draw Near"

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O gra - cious Lord, with love draw near To these, your chil-
Com - plete the work you have be - gun In these u - nit-
De - liv - er them from ev' - ry wile, From all that would
Lord, keep them firm in their in - tent To you, your Word,
O Fath - er grant that by your grace They may your will
Then robed in white be - fore your throne, Your ho - ly saints



- dren gath - ered here; The Spir - it's gift in them re-
- ed to your Son, For in that pure bap - tis - mal
their hearts be - guile, From world - ly ways and Sa - tan's
and sac - ra - ment. Oh, make them bold, their faith to
each day em - brace, With fruits of faith their lives now
by you fore - known- Pre - des - tined called, and jus - ti-



- new: The gift of faith that clings to you.
flood They have been cleansed by Je - sus' blood.
lies; That they may not your Word de - spise.
share; And make them strong, their cross to bear.
bless, Till they at death your name con - fess.
- fied, Shall, crowned in light, be glo - ri - fied.

INVOCATION

P: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS

P: Dear Friends, let us approach God with true hearts and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God has shown his mercy for us on a cross and in an empty tomb. Through the death and resurrection of his Son Jesus, you who believe and are baptized have full and complete forgiveness of all your sins. Christ is with you and lives in you.

C: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁸And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both 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 suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 3:18-24

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²²and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

SERMON HYMN

“May the Mind of Christ My Savior”

CW 467 Text, Tune, Setting: Public Domain



May the mind of Christ my Sav - ior Live in me from day to day,
 May the Word of God dwell rich - ly In my heart from hour to hour,
 May the peace of God my Fa - ther Rule my life in ev - 'ry-thing,
 May the love of Je - sus fill me As the wa - ters fill the sea,
 May I run the race be - fore me, Strong and brave to face the foe.
 May his spir - it live with - in me As I seek the lost to win,



By his love and pow'r in - spir - ing All I do or say.
 So that all may see I tri - umph On - ly through his pow'r.
 That I may be calm to com - fort Sick and sor - row - ing.
 Him ex - alt - ing self a - bas - ing - This is vic - to - ry!
 Look - ing on - ly un - to Je - sus As I on - ward go.
 And may they for - get the chan - nel, See - ing on - ly him.

SERMON TEXT

John 15:1-8

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Remain in Christ

Stand

PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

10:30a Worship Service – Our 8a and Thursday services continue on Page Nine

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths

of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

- P: Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation? **(I do.)**
Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises? **(I do.)**
Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

(spoken by the confirmands)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
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. Amen.**

P: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God? **(I do.)**

Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God? **(I do.)**

Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it? **(I do, and I ask God to help me.)**

Do you intend to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live? **(I do, and I ask God to help me.)**

P: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for these confirmands, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in them. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

Lord Jesus, author and perfecter of our faith, in mercy you joined these brothers and sisters to your Church when they were born again of water and the Spirit. In mercy you taught them your saving truth. Grant that they may offer themselves as living sacrifices to you as their spiritual act of worship. Transform them by the renewing of their minds so that they will not conform to the pattern of this world. Help all of us live in love and harmony with one another and to work together in serving you. Keep us united in your Spirit, and bring us at last to your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, what we as a Christian congregation have here asked our heavenly Father to confer on all of you, we now ask him to give each of you individually.

BLESSING OF THE CONFIRMANDS

The confirmands and their blessings and verses are listed on the back page.

P: Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given you by God through his Church; receive this sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

LORD'S SUPPER

Our church practices membership communion.

We ask that only members partake of the sacrament.

You will be guided to the table by an usher.

Your group may come forward together.

Please practice social distancing with other groups or individuals.

The bread and wine are laid out individually for you to remove from the table.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

Stand following the Distribution

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for bringing us to the knowledge of your Son Jesus through the precious gospel revealed in the Scriptures. Continue to enlighten and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may daily increase in faith, in true knowledge of you, and in all things profitable for our salvation. Bring us at last to the everlasting joys of heaven, where we will live in holiness with you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: May God, who has begun a good work in you, bring it to completion at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

CW 332 Text: ©1982 Concordia Publishing House Tune: Public Domain Setting: Harmonized by Ralph Vaughn Williams



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to me;
I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



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.
I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched him, saw his
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here his ten - der com - fort
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and



- ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing - You are my own.
glo - ry. Go, my child - ren sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
stilled you, Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.
Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

A warm welcome to our visitors. May the Lord bless your worship with us today!

- If you are visiting, please do us the honor of filling out a connection card, located on the podium near the entrance to the sanctuary. After filling it out, please hand it to an usher, place it in the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary, or give it to the pastor.
- Please let an usher know if you require a larger print bulletin.
- Restrooms are located through the gathering area, down the hallway to your left.

We will not pass the offering plate during the service. Feel free to give an offering online at our website www.christredeemer.church, scan the QR code to the right, or place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary.



OUR WEEK AHEAD

Monday		NO SCHOOL
Tuesday	6:00p	Sunday School Teachers Meeting
Wednesday	9:00a	COR Fine Arts Day
Thursday	7:00p	Thursday Evening Worship
	7:45p	Bible Study
Saturday	9:00a	Field and Track Day
Sunday	8:00a	Worship
	9:15a	Bible Study & Sunday School
	10:30a	Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting: Between services on May 16, to inform and get feedback on School opportunities and parking lot issues.

Calling All Softball Players! The area WELS churches are gathering for a coed softball tournament on Saturday, July 10. We would love to get a team together from COR! Men and women are invited and encouraged to play—and if you have a friend that would be interested, bring them as well! Contact Pastor Engelbrecht to let him know that you are interested.

NEW Bible 101 Class will be starting soon. It will be from 5:45-6:45 on Thursday evenings, beginning Thursday, May 13th. Invite a friend to learn more about the Bible and Jesus. If it's been a while since you reviewed the truths of your faith, join us to grow in faith and to enjoy the fellowship of growing in hope together! Questions? Contact Pastor Engelbrecht. If you're planning on attending, please let Pastor know.