

COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD

TRUST IN HIM AND HE WILL DO THIS:

HE WILL MAKE YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

SHINE LIKE THE DAWN,

THE JUSTICE OF YOUR CAUSE

LIKE THE NOONDAY SUN.

On  
your  
confirmation  
day

PSALM 37.5

## **OUR PATH OF WORSHIP**

**Confirmation Sunday – May 5, 2024 @ 10:30AM**

**SERVICE THEME: Love Each Other**

*Liturgy: Special*

## PROCESSIONAL

### HYMN 583 ♪ God Loves Me Dearly

**1** God loves me dearly, grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

**Refrain:** Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

**2** I was in slav'ry, sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working to make me free. *(Refrain)*

**3** He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer,  
he sent forth Jesus and set me free. *(Refrain)*

**4** Jesus, my Savior, himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed. *(Refrain)*

**5** Now I will praise you, O Love eternal;  
now I will praise you all my life long. *(Refrain)*

*Text: Public domain*

## STAND

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**M:** This is the day the Lord has made!

**C:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**M:** Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**C:** Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

**M:** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

**C:** We have no greater joy than to know that our children are walking in the truth.

**M:** You are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ.

**C:** If we hold to his teachings, we are truly his disciples. Then we will know the truth, and the truth will set us free.

M: Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He knows his sheep, and his sheep know him.

**C: We listen to his voice, and there is one flock and one shepherd.**

M: Jesus is the vine; we are the branches. If you remain in Jesus and Jesus in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Jesus you can do nothing.

**C: This is to the Father's glory, that we bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be his disciples.**

M: Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

**C: No one comes to the Father except through him.**

M: Therefore, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, our Savior, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

**C: We will hold unswervingly to the faith we profess, for he who has promised is faithful.**

M: God's Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path.

**C: I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.**

M: From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**C: Those who are faithful, even to the point of death, will receive the crown of life.**

### **HYMN 465 🎵 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today\***

*sts. 1-2*

**1 "Christ the Lord is ris'n today!" saints on earth and angels say.  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; sing, O heav'ns, and earth, reply.**

**2 Love's redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won.  
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er; lo, he sets in blood no more.**

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt. (Public domain)*

*\*This hymn was chosen by Alexis Gerlach because it assures us of Christ's resurrection and the forgiveness of our sins.*

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

M: God's Word calls us to be honest about ourselves and our God. God is holy. We, on our own, are not. But we have learned...

**C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: O Lord, in the Commandments we learn that we have not feared, loved and trusted in you above all things. I have been swayed by the peer pressure of others. I am often tempted to love the things of this world more than you. And I have trusted in my own heart, my own desires, my own will instead of your Word. Forgive me for Jesus' sake.**

*(Silence for meditation and reflection)*

**M: God's love for you in Christ is beyond measure. In love, God sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN 465 ♪ Christ the Lord Is Risen Today**

*sts. 3,6*

**3 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell.  
Death in vain forbids his rise; Christ has opened paradise.**

**6 Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n! Praise to you by both be giv'n!  
God has now fulfilled his Word; praise the resurrected Lord!**

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, abr., alt. (Public domain)*

**M: Let us pray. O God, you are the giver of everything good. Inspire us, your humble servants, to long for what is right and, through your gracious guidance, accomplish it to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C: Amen.**

BE SEATED

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING – Acts 9:36–42**

#### **“Peter Serves as a Christian Example of Love”**

<sup>36</sup>In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. <sup>37</sup>About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. <sup>38</sup>Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

<sup>39</sup>Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

<sup>40</sup>Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING – 1 John 4:7–11, 19–21**

### **“We Love Because He First Loved Us”**

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

<sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

STAND

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

M: Alleluia. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL – John 15:9–17

### “Love as Jesus has Loved You”

<sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

### HYMN 728 This Is My Will



1 This is my will, my one com - mand, that love should  
2 No great - er love can be than this: to choose to  
3 I call you now no long - er slaves; no slave knows  
4 You chose not me, but I chose you, that you should  
5 All that you ask my Fa - ther dear for my name’s



dwel a - mong you all. This is my will, that you should  
die to save one’s friends. You are my friends if you o -  
all his mas - ter does. I call you friends, for all I  
go and bear much fruit. I chose you out that you in  
sake you shall re - ceive. This is my will, my one com -



love as I have shown that I love you.  
bey what I com - mand that you should do.  
hear my Fa - ther say you hear from me.  
me should bear much fruit that will a - bide.  
mand, that love should dwell in each, in all.

*Text: Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010, alt.; Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.*

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## SERMON TEXT – John 15:9–17 (See the Gospel)

### SERMON THEME – “Remain in Christ’s Love”

**OFFERING** Please fill out the Friendship Register.

After the offering is collected, please stand and sing...

## **OFFERING HYMN 695** 🎵 **Take My Life and Let It Be**

sts. 1+4

- 1 Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 4 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose.**

*Text: Public domain*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*M: Friends in Christ, the Word of God urges us to pray for one another and for the youth of the church. On this special day, it is fitting that we bring our prayers before God, firmly believing that he alone is able to strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful. Let us pray.*

**M:** Gracious Father, in Holy Baptism you created faith in the hearts of these young people and gave them a new birth as members of your family. Help them remember their baptisms every day and find comfort in your promise that you will never leave them or forsake them. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**M:** Give them strength to put down and drown the sinful nature that lives within them so that each day their faith may triumph in their living and loving and in their words and actions. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M Lead them to see and believe that in the word of the gospel they find forgiveness for their sins and relief for their guilt. Use the remembrance of your commandments to drive them to the comfort of the gospel and then to guide them as they live for you and others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Protect them from the lies of Satan, especially when he tempts them to be careless with your Word and sacrament, when he tempts them to make plans for this life at the expense of the life to come, or to find popular theories more appealing than your truth. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Empower them by the gospel of your Son to live in their world with kindness, humility, and patience that others may see their good works and glorify their Father in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Help us provide fitting examples of faithfulness to your Word and sacraments. Lead us to encourage and admonish them in wisdom and love even after they have left our homes and made new homes for themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: When the end comes and we all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, have compassion on us and accept us as eternal dwellers in your royal rooms, through the merits of Jesus our Savior. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*[Special Prayers or Intercessions]*

M: Hear these our prayers and receive us into everlasting communion with you and your only Son, Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray...

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**



BE SEATED

**HYMN 337 🎵 Silent Night, Holy Night\***

sts. 3

**3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

*Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848 (Public domain)*

*\*This hymn was chosen by Casey Jacklin because he knows it well and it makes him think of Christmas.*

**THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

Gavin Balkevich, Alexis Gerlach, Casey Jacklin

**THE SACRAMENT**

*(The Lord's Supper will only be offered to the Confirmation Class today.  
Communion will be offered to the entire congregation again next week.)*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION & DISTRIBUTION**

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*As the Confirmands receive the Lord's Supper, the congregation is invited to sing...*

**HYMN 863 🎵 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God\***

sts. 1, 4

**1 A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;  
he helps us free from ev'ry need that has us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil foe now means deadly woe;  
deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;  
on earth is not his equal.**

**4 The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;  
he's by our side upon the plain with his good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,  
though all may be gone, our victory is won;  
the kingdom's ours forever!**

*Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546 (Public domain)  
\*This hymn was chosen by Gavin Balkevich it testifies to the strength of our God.*

STAND

### PRAYER

M: Lord Jesus, you promised that you will confess before your Father in heaven those who confess you before others on earth. Grant those who confess their faith before your altar the grace and strength to avoid all things contrary to what they confess, that in humble faith they seek and do all things pleasing to you; you live and reign, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

BE SEATED

### HYMN 695 ♪ Take My Life and Let It Be

sts. 5+6

**5 Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.**

**6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

*Text: Public domain*

*Preacher: Pastor Ben Golisch — Accompanist: Lisa Meissner*

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## **2024 Confirmation Class**

**Gavin Balkevich** (Christopher & Christine Balkevich)

Memory Verse: John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Explanation: "I chose this verse because it was my Grandma Sally's favorite verse, and she meant a lot to me."

**Alexis Gerlach** (Jeremy & Lisa Gerlach)

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:34, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Explanation: "This verse reassures me that God loves me and will guide me through each and every day."

**Casey Jacklin** (Brian & Sara Jacklin)

Memory Verse: Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing."

Explanation: "I like that it is simple and to the point. I don't ask for a lot. I don't want too many things. I only need simple things [and the Lord provides]."

*Please note that each student picked a hymn for this service and gave a summary of their reason for choosing their hymn. The other hymns were chosen by our Worship Committee.*

