

Sunday Worship Service – October 26, 2025

Confirmation and Reformation Sunday

(from various worship resources as indicated in the footnotes)

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment for Reflection

Call to Worship¹

Come to us, O God.

Breathe through our worship with your Holy Spirit.

Fill us with your faithful love.

Guide us with your ancient teachings.

Come to us, O God.

Be in our prayer and praise.

Processional Hymn “We Are Called” #720

(During the Processional Hymn, the worship leaders and confirmands process in from the back, carrying symbols of our Christian faith which are placed in the chancel.)

1. Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

**We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Refrain: **We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

2. Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

**We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more. (Refrain)**

3. Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

**God will reign, and we’ll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. (Refrain)**

¹ *Call to Worship* written by Mary Scifres, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN

Confession and Forgiveness ²

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

To you, O God,

**all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing
our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us
your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake
of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Absolution

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death
and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of
mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

Song of Praise “Praise the Father” ³

1. **Who is the one to whom you belong,
who in your weakness has made you strong?
Who fills your heart with joyful song? Well it is the Lord your God.**

Refrain **Praise the Father, praise the Son.
Praise the Spirit Three in One, who was and is and is to come.
All praise and honour and glory and power,
oh praise God’s name for ever.**

2. **Who is the one who for you died,
was mocked and spat at and crucified?
Who rose from the dead and is glorified?
Well it is the Lord your God. (*Refrain*)**
3. **Who is the one who with you will be
from highest mountain to darkest valley?
Who is the one who in you dwells?
Well it is the Lord your God. (*Refrain*)**

² *Confession and Forgiveness* from *All Creation Sings*, through *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress,
Minneapolis, MN

³ Words and Music by Gord Johnson © 1994 Signpost Music (www.signpostmusic.com)

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people.

By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Psalm 1 (read responsively with a sung refrain)

Hap - py are those who trust the Ho - ly One. trust the Ho - ly One.

Happy are those who follow no evil counselors,
nor stand in sinners' ways, nor sit with the insolent.

**Rather, they delight in the Holy One's teaching;
on that teaching they meditate day and night.**

They shall be like trees beside flowing streams,
trees that yield fruit in due season, whose leaves never wither.

All their work will prosper. (Refrain)

Not so for the wicked!

They are like chaff blown away by the wind.

Therefore the wicked shall not survive judgment,
nor sinners be among the just and faithful.

**Truly, the Holy One knows the way of the just and faithful,
but the way of the wicked shall perish. (Refrain)**

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ. A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians, the 2nd chapter:

As you yourselves know, brothers and sisters, our visit with you wasn't a waste of time. On the contrary, we had the courage through God to speak God's good news in spite of a lot of opposition, although we had already suffered and were publicly insulted in Philippi, as you know. Our appeal isn't based on false information, the wrong motives, or deception. Rather, we have been examined and approved by God to be trusted with the good news, and that's exactly how we speak. We aren't trying to please people, but we are trying to please God, who continues to examine our hearts. As you know, we never used flattery, and God is our witness that we didn't have greedy motives. We didn't ask for special treatment from people—not from you or from others—although we could have thrown our weight around as Christ's apostles. Instead, we were gentle with you like a nursing mother caring for her own children. We were glad to share not only God's good news with you but also our very lives because we cared for you so much.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation *"The Living Word"* ⁴

**In the beginning was the Word,
the Living Word of God,
the Light of Life Unending.**

**You shine in us on ancient starlight,
in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.**

**Sing we halle, hallelu!
You are the Word of Life Eternal.
Holy Wisdom, found within!
You speak to us and we remember:**

**"I am the Book no one can close,
The Story of our time, before all time, together.
I am the Voice that never falters, I, the Echo of Beyond.
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life." The Living Word.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴ *Gospel Acclamation "The Living Word"* from "Liturgy of the Beloved" © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved.
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When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they met together. One of them, a legal expert, tested him. “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

He replied, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.*”

Now as the Pharisees were gathering, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” “David’s son,” they replied.

He said, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, called him Lord when he said, *The Lord said to my lord, ‘Sit at my right side until I turn your enemies into your footstool’*? If David calls him Lord, how can he be David’s son?” Nobody was able to answer him. And from that day forward nobody dared to ask him anything.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: The Greatest Is Two

Hymn “*A Lawyer Came Near*”⁵ (Tune #881)

1. **A lawyer came near, asking Jesus a question;
he did it to test him, to find Jesus' flaws:
O Teacher, we've listened and heard what you're saying.
Now which is the greatest of all of God's laws?
With six hundred thirteen commandments to choose from,
now tell us your views! Tell us: What do you say? —
The lawyer was searching for ways to accuse him
by tripping up Jesus, that long-ago day.**
2. **Yet Jesus was wise and he knew what was happening;
he knew if he said that one law mattered more,
then he'd be accused of ignoring, belittling
the six hundred twelve that he chose to ignore.
So Jesus chose love: You should love the Lord dearly
with all of your heart and your soul and your mind.
And yes, there's another — to go, love your neighbor;
these two hold up all of the others, combined.**

⁵ Words © 2023 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

3. **Lord Jesus, you teach us to love God and neighbor,
for love adds the flavor to all that we do.
At home or away, in our leisure or labor,
there's nothing that's greater than love — it is true!
And Lord, in this world that is filled with great suffering —
may we know that love is not just some ideal;
Your practical teaching is really far-reaching;
God's love is a gift that will help the world heal.**

Confirmation – Affirmation of Baptism

Presentation *(Confirmands take their place around the altar)*

I present the following persons who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism through the confirmation of their faith:

- Carson Doan
- Ella Heise
- Xander Hodsman
- Matthew Ming-Fok
- Rowan Roberts

Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for these young people who you have claimed as your own precious children. Through your Spirit, you have called them to a life of faith. You have given them each unique gifts and abilities, and you have nurtured them through the community of faith, their church family. Strengthen them in the gifts and promises of baptism, as we are all reminded of your promises of love, forgiveness, and presence. Amen.

Profession of Faith *(The minister addresses the confirmands)*

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people,
to be an active member of God's family, the church,
to share in its worship and ministry,
to witness to your faith through your words and actions,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

If so, I ask you to answer each in turn,
“I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.”

R I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

I ask you to reject sin,
 acknowledge your faith in Christ Jesus,
 and profess the faith of the Christian Church.
 Trusting in God's love and mercy, do you reject evil,
 and all its many forms, and all its empty promises?
 If so, answer "I do".

R I do.

Trusting in Christ Jesus' grace and love, do you accept the presence of Christ
 Jesus in your life as the one who draws you to God?
 If so, answer "I do".

R I do.

With all God's people throughout time and space,
 let us together profess our common faith in the triune God through the
 words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
 God's only Son, our Lord.
 He 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 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.**

Address to the Parents & Godparents

Will you pray for these youth as they continue their journey of faith, that
 they will grow in their relationship with God. If so, I ask you to answer all
 together, "We will and we ask God to help and guide us."

R We will and we ask God to help and guide us.

The Blessing *(Confirmands will be asked to kneel, each in turn).*

Gracious God, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his faith, guide his life, strengthen him in his serving, and give him patience in times of hardship or struggle. Amen.

Remembrance of Baptism Blessing

(Confirmands are marked with sign of the cross).

Remember that through your baptism you are marked with the sign of the cross, you are joined with Jesus and a child of God, now and forever.

Address to the Assembly

People of God, do you promise to support these youth, sons of this church family, and pray for them in their life in Christ?

If so, please respond by saying,

"We do, and we ask God to help and guide us."

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us rejoice with these brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the affirmation of your baptism, the confirmation of your faith. We give thanks and praise to God for you, Together we will share God's message of love, hope, and forgiveness with the world around us.

Presentation of the Gifts *(After this, the confirmands return to their seats)*

Confirmation Song "Wind of the Spirit"

1. **Your Wind is blowin' across the lonely land
We are your messengers, your touch is in our hand
Use us, Lord Jesus, to care for our friends
Help us to love them, it's your great command.**

Refrain: **Oh Wind of the Spirit fill the sails of my soul.
Send us on Lord. Let your wind blow.
Oh Wind of the Spirit fill the sails of my soul.
Send us on Lord. Let your wind blow. Oh, oh, oh.**

2. **Your Spirit is moving with power and might.
We'll walk together by faith, not by sight.
You're calling an army to rise up and fight.
We'll be your soldiers flooding darkness with light. *(Refrain)***

Bridge: **Oh, oh, let your Wind blow. *(Repeat adding harmonies, then Refrain)***

Prayers of Intercession ⁶

Pondering the two great commandments of the law, let us pray together, saying: O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.** *(A brief silence)*

We pray that the church throughout the world may love you with all its heart and soul and mind, and may exemplify your love in all its life, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that our country, in all its foreign and domestic policies, may care for refugees and immigrants, the poor and the oppressed, all victims of economic exploitation, and all poorer and smaller nations, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that the leaders of the churches, with insight and faithfulness, may practice love and compassion for all in need, for all who live in misery, and for all outcasts of society, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that like the Thessalonians, our community may live in the faith and joy of the Holy Spirit, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that those who suffer affliction of any kind are granted healing and hope and life. We pray for those recovering from surgery, that their recovery would be complete. We pray for those grieving the loss of loved ones, that they find comfort and hope in the promise of the resurrection to eternal life, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that the wealth of our land may enable us to live in just stewardship of the earth's goods, in care for our natural resources, and in compassion for the needy, O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that the young people confirmed here today continue to be strengthened by your Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace. O Lord of love, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you care for the widow and the orphan, and you hear the cry of the poor. Listen also to our cry; change our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh with which to love you in truth and for your sake to show compassion on all your creatures. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation is invited to greet one another with a gesture of peace.

⁶ *Prayers of Intercession* from sundaysandseasons.com © 2023 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

Offering ⁷

God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit. God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that honors each other, to serve others with joy, to share our love and material possessions. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give.

(an Offering plate is placed on the altar)

Offering Prayer ⁸

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you
and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁹ (A Eucharistic Prayer after Martin Luther)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Lord God, we praise you, bless you, and adore you.

In thanksgiving we bow before you.

O loving Father! You have created all,
and you care for your children day and night. Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

You sent your Son to bring us your salvation.

Christ is the source of every grace and blessing,
the true paschal lamb and bread of heaven,
the very joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us. Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

⁷ *Invitation to the Offering* from **The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition** © 2013 Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, MI

⁸ *Offering Prayer* from **sundaysandseasons.com** © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

⁹ from *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: a Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table* by Gail Ramshaw (Augsburg Fortress, 2017).

On the night in which he was betrayed,
 he took bread, and gave thanks,
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

We remember Jesus, your Word made flesh, our elder brother,
 dying on the accursed tree,
 crushing the power of hell,
 and rising again victorious from the grave.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

Send your Spirit on this holy feast.
 Nourish and heal us with the body and blood of our Savior.
 Bestow on your church your sweetest love,
 your transcendent comfort, your unity and peace.
 Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**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.**

Invitation

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Communion Instructions

Communion Distribution (begin with communing the online congregation)

Hymn during Communion *“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”* #767

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.!

Hymn during Communion *“Jesu, Jesus, Fill Us with Your Love”* #708

Refrain: **Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
 show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *(Refrain)*
2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. *(Refrain)*
3. These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *(Refrain)*
4. Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet;
this is the way we will live with you. *(Refrain)*

Communion Blessing

May the precious body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
strengthen you, and keep you in his grace now, and unto life everlasting.

Post-communion Prayer ¹⁰

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

¹⁰ *Prayer after Communion* from sundaysandseasons.com © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

Sending Song “We Will Go with God” #990 (ACS)

We will go with God!
Ho, ho, ho! We will go with God!
We will go with God!
Ho, ho, ho! We will go with God! (This day, oh!)
On this day of great joy
we will go with God. (This day, oh!)
On this day of great joy
we will go with God!

Blessing ¹¹

With God’s love in your hearts,
 go forth sharing of yourselves,
 living the good news,
 and showing great affection
 in this world that God loves. Amen.

Benediction Song “May the Grace of Christ Attend Us” (#963 Voices United)

May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.

Commission

Go in peace, inspired by Christ, to love and serve!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen

¹¹ *Blessing* written by Hans Holznagel, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2014** © 2013 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN