

St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School

An Affiliate of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

320 MOORPARK WAY MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA
CHURCH OFFICE (650) 964-5915 SCHOOL OFFICE (650) 961-2071
Worship service: 10am, Bible Study/Sunday School: 11:15am, Website: www.sslcwest.org

May 30, 2010

Confirmation/Trinity Sunday

Today's Focus:

CONFIRMING OUR GOOD CONFESSION

Pre-service meditation: "The War"

(Words on cover of Bulletin)

I. THE TRINITARIAN INVOCATION

We begin this affirmation/confirmation service in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Q: Why begin worship services in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Q: Can you give a supporting passage from God's Word?

OPENING HYMN 427:1-3,7 (Red Hymnal)

How Firm a Foundation...

II. THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

The Lord tells us to confess our sins to Him and be assured of His love and grace.

Q: Why do we confess our sins?

Q: Confession has two parts. Would you kindly remind us what they are?

Q: Which sins should we confess?

Q: How can we know what sin is?

Q: What are the two main teachings of the Bible?

Q: What do each of these teachings show us?

Q: Can you give a supporting passage from God's Word?

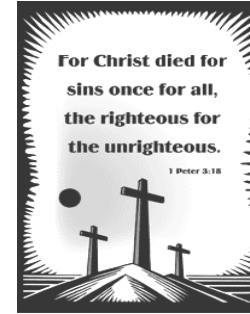
Q: What are the two tables or teachings of the Law, and what commandments go with them?

Q: Why is it that we cannot keep these commandments?

Q: How did we get our sinful natures?

Q: What is the final result of sin for mankind?

Q: So when I confess my sins, what hope do I look to receive from God?



P: Therefore, I now ask you all before God, is this your confession that you repent of your sins, believe in your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and purpose by the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful lives? Then declare so by saying: *Yes, with the help of God.*

C: Yes, with the help of God.

P: Upon this confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Q: How do I know and how can I be sure of this forgiveness?

Q: Can you give a supporting passage from God's Word?

Q: What does the word redemption mean?

Q: What did Jesus buy me back from?

Q: What then did the Son of God have to do in order to redeem me?

Q: Can you give a supporting passage – saying that Jesus is true GOD?

Q: Can you give a supporting passage – saying that Jesus is true MAN?

Q: What assures you of your resurrection?

Q: Can you give a supporting passage from God's Word?

Q: Where is Jesus now?

Q: What three offices describe what Jesus is doing at God's right hand?

Q: What do you mean when you say He is serving as Prophet, Priest, and King?

III. THE GLORIA PATRI (Glory to the Father)

Having confessed our sins and having received absolution and forgiveness from God, we sing songs of praise to the Holy Trinity.

Q: What work do we say is attributed to God the Father?

Q: Why does our Heavenly Father do these things?

Q: Because He loves me, what can I do for Him?

HYMN "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" (See Handout)

IV. THE COLLECT (Special prayers for each Sunday)

We're dependant on the goodness and mercy of God, so we pray: Lord, have mercy on us.

Q: Every Sunday, we offer several prayers to God. What prompts us to pray?

Q: Can you give a supporting passage from God's Word?

Q: In whose name do we pray?



Founds/Alea

V. THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus has graciously taught His disciples how to pray! Let's all rise then and raise our voices to our Savior by praying the **LORD'S PRAYER**: *(Please rise)*

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.



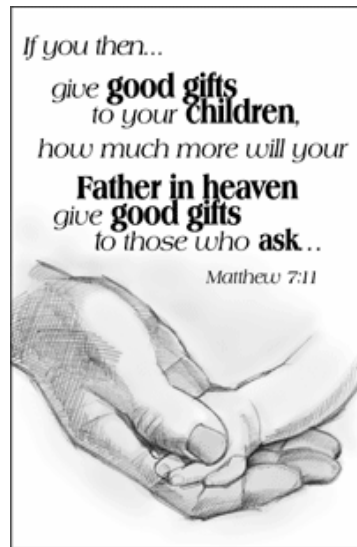
Q: What does it mean to "Hallow" our Heavenly Father's name?

Q: Where is the kingdom of God found?

Q: What three enemies are always fighting against the will of God?

Q: When we pray for our "daily bread," what are we asking for?

Q: How should we show our thanks for God's forgiveness to others that sin against us?



Q: Can you give a supporting passage?

Q: How do we know that Jesus was tempted just like we are?

Q: We have seen an important part of our worship service here every Sunday is confession and absolution. We confess all our sins to God and we hear the announcement of forgiveness. In the Lord's Prayer, we speak of forgiveness also. But where do we get the authority to make such an announcement?

Q: What did Jesus mean about the "binding and loosing" keys?

Q: The final two petitions Jesus taught us about our need for help and protection from all sin and spiritual danger. What final things do we ask our Lord to deliver us from?

Q: What does it mean to you to pray "Our Father in Heaven?"

YOUTH CHOIR - "He Knows My Name"

Walker

VI. THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

The most important part of our service is not what we say to God in prayer, but what God says to us. He speaks to us through the Scripture readings and the sermon text. Let's listen to what God's Word says to us from the **Epistle Reading: Romans 5** *(on back)*.

Q: Can you give a passage showing who wrote the Scriptures?

Q: Can you give a passage that describes how much of Scripture is God's Word?

Q: For what purpose did God give us the Bible?

Q: Can you give a passage that supports this idea?

VII. THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

Besides our speaking to God in prayer and God's speaking to us in the Scriptures, we speak to one another in confessing the Apostle's Creed. We are a confessional church and each of us wants the rest of the world to know our conviction, unity in God's Word, and our hope He gives us in faith. So let us rise then and confess our hope and faith in the words of the **APOSTLES CREED**. *(Please rise)*



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.
From there He will come to judge
The living and the dead.

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.

Q: What do you mean when you say that the Holy Spirit has called you by the Gospel?

Q: Can you give a passage that supports this statement?

Q: What do we call the whole group of Christians here on earth?

Q: If we could see the members of the Church, where would we look for them?

Q: Why God doesn't want us to join just any church, even if we find the Gospel/Sacraments?

Q: What are we suppose to do about churches which mix the truth and false teachings?

Q: What loving reasons does God want us to do this?

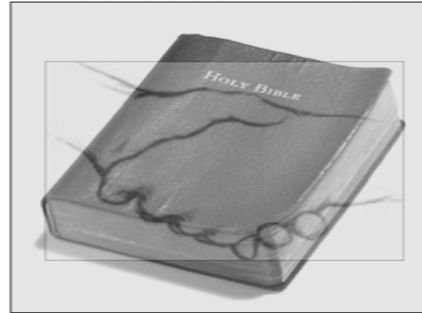
Q: What are "The Means of Grace?"

Q: What does the word "Sacrament" mean?

Q: The word "Sacrament" is not in the Bible.

But what three things define a Sacrament?

Q: What then, are the Sacraments?



VIII. HOLY BAPTISM

In speaking of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:



Q: How do we know that we are to baptize?

Q: What does the Greek word "baptizo" simply mean?

Q: How are we to baptize?

Q: What would be some reasons why we baptize infants also?

Q: Can you give a passage that say infants are sinners too?

Q: What then are the blessings of Baptism God pours out on us?

HYMN 751 (Worship Supplement) *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It*

IX. HOLY COMMUNION

Here at St. Stephen, on the first Sunday of every month, we celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar otherwise known as the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion. On this occasion God gives to us another precious gift of His grace.

Q: What is the blessed communion that takes place in the Lord's Supper which we also define as the Real Presence? What are the two other beliefs that disagree with God's Word?

Q: What is the benefit of receiving the Lord's Supper and how do you know it?

Q: There is preparation that must be made before coming to the Lord's Supper. What is the result for those who are unworthy or unprepared?

Q: How do you know this?

Q: For this reason, who should not be admitted to the Lord's Supper?

Q: Can you supply a passage for support?

Q: How often will you take part in the Lord's Supper?

Q: Why would you want to do this?



X. THE OFFERING

Having spoken to God, having listened to God, and having confessed to one another, we freely give of our time, talents, and treasures to the Lord.

Q: What is the purpose of giving our gifts and talents to the Lord?

Q: Does the work of spreading the Gospel belong only to pastors and missionaries? Explain your answer.



AN OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS TO THE LORD

CONFIRMATION OF: Alexander Hartman Hamilton

CONFIRMATION PASSAGE:

"But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

1 Timothy 6:11-12 (NKJ)



HYMN 447 (Red Hymnal)

Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Individual PRE/POST Communion Prayer - In the front of Red Hymnal pg. 118

The Lord's Supper is a gracious way in which our Savior comes to us to strengthen our faith in Him. By taking the Lord's Supper together, the members of this church proclaim that we are "of one mind" together in Christ. As the Scripture says: "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment," and "For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread" (1 Cor. 1:10; 10:17). Out of love for God's Word and blood bought souls of Christ, it is for this reason we ask that communicant members of St. Stephen or a sister church of the "Church of the Lutheran Confession" come forward at the direction of the ushers.

(Our pastor is happy to speak with you after the service if you have any questions.)

BENEDICTION/CLOSING HYMN - CHOIR

In Christ Alone

NEWS and NOTES

Welcome everyone and our visitors! We are very happy that you're here today and hope you come again!

Please sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have questions about our church/school just ask!

-Today: Refreshments in classroom/Interview with Pastor/Professor David Lau on the anniversary of the CLC.

-Tuesday morning: 10am Bible Class continues with our study of the CLC's Concerning Church Fellowship.

-Next Sunday, June 6th we will be celebrating our school's graduation during the service.

-Call News The Rev. David Naumann, Fond du Lac WI, has accepted the call to St. John's Lutheran, Clarkston WA, and Peace Lutheran, Orofino ID. <> Holy Cross in Phoenix has called its assistant pastor, Michael Gurath, to serve as a missionary in East Africa for a period of six to thirteen months. As agreed to with the CLC Board of Missions, Michael Gurath would be going as part of the Mission Helper Program. His base of operation is to be Moi's Bridge, Kenya. Nearby is a village, Emmaus Milimani, where a group of people desires to establish a church and school affiliated with the CLC, and Pastor Gurath is to help in this effort. (Currently 100+ adults assemble for worship on Sundays. They listen to worship services from Holy Cross. 150 children attend Sunday School.) He will also be available to travel to and serve at other CLC affiliated congregations and schools in East Africa as well. The overall funding for the trip, especially for the work in Emmaus Milimani, will be provided by Holy Cross. Travel expense to other locales will be covered by the MDF. Pastor Gurath has accepted this call.

-Next week scriptures lessons: *Psalm 117, 1 Kings 8:(22-23, 27-30)41-43, Galatians 1:1-10, Luke 7:1-10*