

RITE OF CONFIRMATION
Please turn to the insert in the bulletin.

Confirmands
Willow Creek - Max Lee Mitzel
Benton - Blakeley Rae Klein, Braelynn Shoni Long, Lilli Mae

SHARING THE PEACE L) The peace of Christ be with you all. ***C) And also with you.***

"MEAL"

OFFERING/OFFERING SONG **"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" v-1** **ELW #693**

1 Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH L) Lord in your mercy
C) Receive our Prayer



HOLY COMMUNION *(around the rail)*

- **Words of Institution**
- **The Lord's Prayer** - ELW page 112
- **Distribution of the Sacrament**

"SENDING"

BLESSING/BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG **"Go My Children, with My Blessing"** **ELW #543**

1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

DISMISSAL L) Go in peace, Serve the Lord and your neighbors. ***C) Thanks be to God!***

POSTLUDE



"Reformation Sunday"
Twenty Second Sunday of Pentecost
Willow Creek and Benton Lutheran Churches

October 25th, 2026
Vicar Kendra Kappler and Pastor Renae Boehmer
Accompanist:
Lisa Rave, Willow Creek, Kari Vosburg, Benton

"GATHERING"

OPENING LITANY
Leader: We gather as God's people, called by grace and made new in Christ.
People: We are children of God, set free to live in faith.
Leader: We give thanks for the faith handed down to us and for the faith that continues to grow.
People*: Let us worship God, who is our foundation, our freedom, and our hope.*
All: ***Amen.***

PROCESSIONAL AND OPENING HYMN **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"** **ELW #504**

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENES

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (silence kept for reflection)

Gracious God, ***have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. ***Amen.***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, ***we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the Church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the Church your saving grace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

"WORD"

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:21-31

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you
not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and
its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them
like a tent to live in, 23 who brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he
blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. 25 To whom, then, will
you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who
created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he
is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert,
O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? 28 Have you not
known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless. 30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall
exhausted, 31 but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings
like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

L) Word of God, Word of Life. ***All) Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING Philippians 4:10-20

10 I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were
concerned for me but had no opportunity to show it. 11 Not that I am referring to being in need, for I
have learned to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is
to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going
hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
14 In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.
15 You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no
church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. 16 For even when I was
in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek
the profit that accumulates to your account. 18 I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I
am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a
sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. 19 And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours
according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever.
Amen.

L) Word of God, word of life. ***All) Thanks be to God.***

CHILDREN'S SONG/MESSAGE "The Wonders of Worship – WOW!"

I wonder. I wonder. The wonders of worship, what does it mean?
I wonder. I wonder. The wonders of worship, what does it mean?
Come and see! Come now and see!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" ELW #512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL READING John 8:31-36

31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my
disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered him, "We
are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying,
'You will be made free'?"
34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The
slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if
the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

L) Word of God, word of life. ***All) Thanks be to God.***

SERMON "Strong Enough to Wonder" Vicar Kendra Kappler

HYMN OF THE DAY "Blessed Assurance" ELW #638

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*