

Grant love for others, joy in serving You, peace in the inner being, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of oppression, and self-control in all things. Strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Act of Confirmation

Anointing

Prayer of Confirmation

We rejoice, O merciful God, with these people in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to Your truth and to inspire us to venture into the fullness of life. We give you thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Welcome

Let us, the members of St. Mary's United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

We promise you our continuing friendship, prayers, and companionship as we share the hopes and labors of the Church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together as disciples in God's wisdom and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, may your hand ever be over your servants baptized and confirmed today. May your Holy Spirit ever be with them. So lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word that they may serve you in this life and dwell with you in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Benediction

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Liturgy for Baptism and Confirmation

May 28, 2023

Call to Discipleship

Invitation

Christ's first words were simple, but profound, "The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the good news!"...

Sentences

Hear the Word of the Lord:

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Questioning of the Candidates

Affirmation of Faith

Let us unite with Christ's holy and apostolic Church in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God the Father?

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in God the Son?

We believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into Hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**We believe in the Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Baptism

Invitation

We baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...
We are now participants in the very life of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one with Christ, members of Christ's body.

Sentences

Hear the Word of the Lord:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Congregational Assent:

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations... Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

Prayer of Baptism

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks...

Act of Baptism

Prayer for the Baptized

Let us pray for the one baptized today.

**God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to new life in this holy sacrament. Pour out, therefore, your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.
Amen.**

Confirmation

Invitation

Sentences

Hear the Word of the Lord:

I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of the Candidates

Children, because you have confessed the faith of the Church and are thus counted as a child of God, let us pray, committing ourselves into the loving hands of Almighty God.

O God, my God, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the Congregation

Let us now offer our prayers for our brothers and sisters.

Almighty God, who in baptism received these Your servants into Your holy Church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of Your Holy Spirit.