

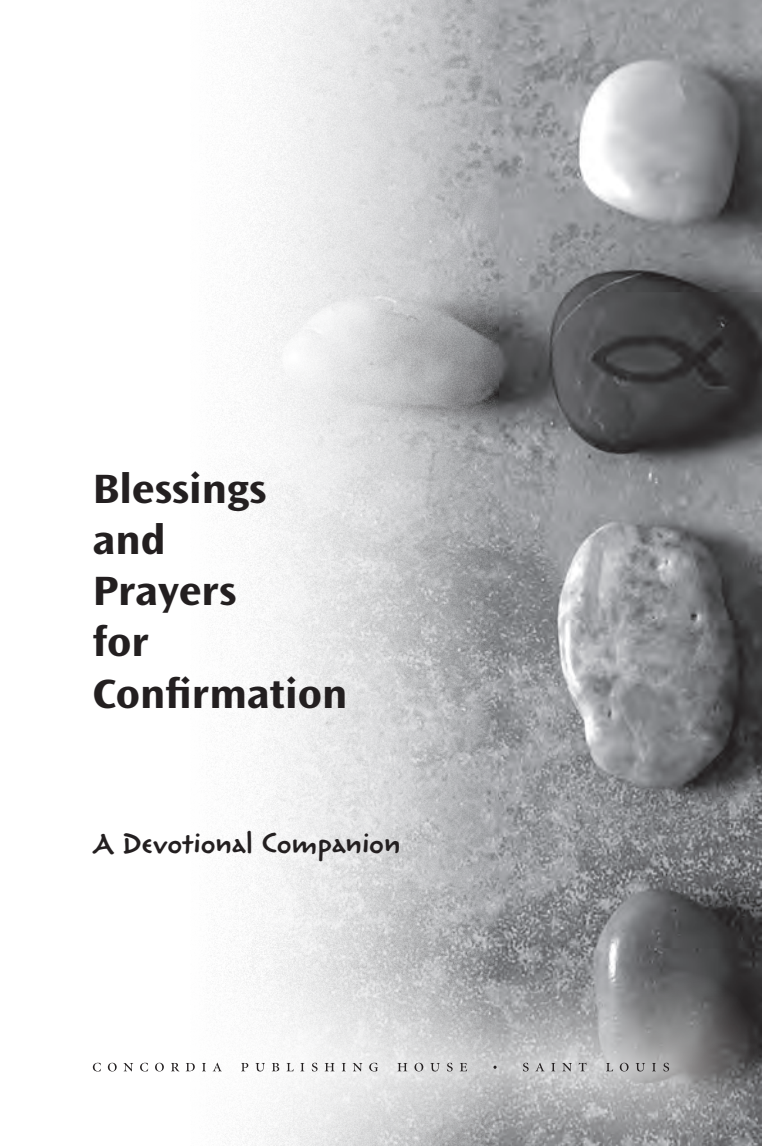
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**Blessings
and
Prayers
for
Confirmation**

A Devotional Companion

Congratulations! The fact that you are reading the introduction to this small book indicates that in all likelihood you recently confirmed your faith in Christ through the Rite of Confirmation. For those who were brought to the Christian faith through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism as infants, you doubtless have no memory of the event. At that time, your parents and/or sponsors spoke a number of promises on your behalf. Now you have made these same promises and declarations in your confirmation. To help you remember these promises, this book begins with the orders for Baptism and Confirmation.

Blessings and Prayers

for Confirmation is designed to help you remember the promises you spoke and to prepare you for the daily challenges that face many young people. As you read and meditate upon the words of the psalms, the brief devotions, the prayers, and the other resources contained between the covers of *Blessings and Prayers for Confirmation*, we pray that you may be strengthened by God's Holy Spirit as we walk together in faith.

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Order of Holy Baptism

An appropriate baptismal hymn may be sung. The candidate(s), sponsors, and family gather with the pastor at the entrance of the nave or at the font. When candidates are unable to speak for themselves, the sponsors answer the questions on their behalf.

Stand

P In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19b

C **Amen.**

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you." Matthew 28:18b–19; Mark 16:16a; 1 Peter 3:21

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us

as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The pastor addresses each candidate:

P How are you named?

R Name

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:

P Name, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family,

eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin. We pray that You would behold name(s) according to Your boundless mercy and bless him/her/them with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in him/her/them, which has been inherited from Adam and which he himself/she herself/they themselves has/have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that he/she/they be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that,

with all believers in Your promise, he/she/they would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

If the sponsors were previously enrolled, the service continues below with the Holy Gospel.

P From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

The pastor addresses the sponsors.

P Is it your intention to serve name of candidate(s) as sponsors in the Christian faith?

R *Yes, with the help of God.*

P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

C Amen.

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16 NKJV

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*The pastor places his hands on the head(s) of the candidate(s),
and the congregation joins in praying:*

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. Matthew 6:9–13

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

*If the baptismal party has stood at the entrance of the nave
to this point, they now move to the font. A hymn may be sung
during the procession. Then the pastor says:*

P The Lord preserve your coming in and your
going out from this time forth and even ✠
forevermore.

C Amen.

Sit

The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:

P Name(s), do you renounce the devil?

R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you 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 sits at the right

hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you 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?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Name, do you desire to be baptized?

R *Yes, I do.*

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

P Name, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has

forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

C Amen.

The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

The newly baptized may be welcomed with the following:

A In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member/members of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir/heirs with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother(s)/sister(s) in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

C Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.

Stand

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted name(s) the new birth in Holy Baptism and made him/her/them a member/members of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir/heirs of Your

heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as he/she/they has/have now become Your child/children, You would keep him/her/them in his/her/their baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure he/she/they may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Peace ☩ be with you.

C Amen.

All return to their places.

Rite of Confirmation

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The pastor addresses the catechumens.

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord. *Matthew 28:18b-20 NKJV; Matthew 10:32-33 NKJV alt.*

P Do you this day in the presence of God

and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R Yes, I do.

P Do you renounce the devil?

R Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

R Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

R Yes, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

R Yes, 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.

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

R I do.

P Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R I do.

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God

and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R I do, by the grace of God.

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R I do, by the grace of God.

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R I do, by the grace of God.

P We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

*The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing.
The pastor places his hands on the head of each catechumen
and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:*

P Name, the almighty God and Father of
our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the
new birth of water and of the Spirit and has
forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you
with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

R *Amen.*

*The pastor may read a text of Holy Scripture
as a remembrance of confirmation.*

*After all the catechumens have received the blessing,
one or both of the following collects are prayed.*

Stand

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and
praise You for Your great goodness in
bringing these Your sons and daughters
to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior,
Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with
the heart to believe and with the mouth
to confess His saving name. Grant that,
bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may

continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that they may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith that ever clings to their Savior. Deliver them from the power of Satan and preserve them from false and dangerous doctrines, that they may remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood. By the Lord's Supper strengthen them to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin

but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear their cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of their bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Peace ☩ be with you.

C Amen.