

Sunday, April 30, 2017 – Third Sunday of Easter & Confirmation Sunday
“The Promise Is For You”

Acts 2: 14a; 36-41

Rev. Derek S. Klemm, Mountain View Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV
Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Years ago each of the young people here this morning, about to confess their faith started a journey. It's a journey most of them didn't choose – like the baby Moses, you know, unaware of what was happening when his older sister Miriam set him in a little makeshift boat and set her brother on the river where he drifted to the safety of living in the care of Pharaoh's daughter, you, too were brought from danger into safety, comfort and certainty of God and His promises in your baptism. It's a promise, as Peter reminds us today in Acts 2, that is meant for you and your children and for all who are far off who God will call.

And these past many years your families have been teaching you – in Bible stories and prayers at home, in coming to church, and Sunday School, and VBS, and Confirmation, and in many of your cases during your school day, that good news of Jesus crucified and risen for you just kept getting poured into you. And now you stand here at a big milestone day.

Theologically speaking, this day is nowhere near as important as your baptism, or receiving the Lord's Supper. Yet it's still a significant milestone because today you're standing in front of your families and your church to let us know – the promises of God that I was baptized into long ago, before I even knew what was happening – I believe, teach and confess them as my promises today. Our confirmands have prepared statements to tell you about exactly that, but let's have me sit down so you can hear their words.

Kids share their Faith Statements here

What these kids shared today was nothing less than the activity of God in their life these many years. Yet what makes it significant is less what they said, and more what God has done. This year, I'd like to start a new tradition here at Mountain View. In many churches, including at the seminary chapel in St. Louis, the baptismal font is in the back of the church at the main doors, symbolizing that we enter the church through baptism. There is always water in the font. It's an old custom that you dip your fingers into the water and cross yourself and say, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you stand here affirming the baptismal promises made in your one baptism years ago, let this be a reminder that God's promises started long ago haven't ended. They're still there today, and that promise continues as you grow in knowledge, experience and ability to love and live out that Christian faith.

So Ethan, please come forward. Ethan/Eric/Gabrielle/Logan/Kalen/Ethan, may the promises of God first made when you were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit bring joy, peace and strength to you in your continued walk as a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ – today, tomorrow and all the way through until the Age to Come at Jesus' return. In Jesus' name, Amen.

See, this is what Confirmation is – a statement that the faith into which you were baptized is yours today – that you believe the promise is for you. God bless you in Jesus' name, Amen.