

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 27 & 28, 2012

AS WE GATHER

The observance of Reformation Day in the life of the Church brings an opportunity to hear words of faith and faithfulness as they were expressed in hymns that were created to share the truths rediscovered at the time of the Reformation faith by its very first adherents. The works of many notable hymnwriters from the sixteenth century have shaped the worship experience of Lutheran Christians for generations. In our service today, we meet some of those text writers and hear again the witness of their words. Also, in our worship are some of the prayers composed by Martin Luther to assist in our observance of this most- important church festival.

WELCOME

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

We rise and face the cross at the entrance of the sanctuary

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #656 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

5:00 Choir will sing the 3rd stanza

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from every need That hath us now o'er taken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe; Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.

(Please rise)

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*

Pastor: I will speak of your testimonies before kings, O LORD,

People: and shall not be put to shame. *Psalm 119:46*

Pastor: Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. *Luke 12:32*

People: Alleluia. Alleluia.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father, today using words adapted from Martin Luther:

People: Dear Lord God, we cannot count the sins that we have done and still do. We have forgotten most of them and no longer feel our guilt. All that is in us and all power that is not grace is sin and is condemned. Our works and our powers only make us despondent. We do not know what else to do but to hope and pray for your mercy. As grace and faith control us, we are devout through Christ. Where these fail us, we know and confess that nothing good is left in us. Without your divine grace and power there is nothing good in what we think, speak, live, and do. But by your grace all our sins are forgiven. This is the joy and comfort which I beseech you to grant to me, a poor sinner.

Pastor: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #803 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountain-head of love divine;
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and

grant to your Church your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ WORD +

FIRST READING Revelation 14:6-7 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth —to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

EPISTLE Romans 3:19-28 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished —he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

5:00 *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word”* *Choir*

(Please rise)

HOLY GOSPEL John 8:31-36 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #578 *“Thy Strong Word”* Stanzas 1, 2 & 3

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end! *continued*

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives, our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

SERMON

“Free Indeed!”

John 8:31-36

(Please rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the back cover of hymnal*)

(Please be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Please rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Gathered in the name of Jesus and assured of His promised presence, let us call on our heavenly Father for ourselves, for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, and for all people. Almighty God, we pray that you would defend your holy church against the gates of hell, beating back every attack of Satan, who seeks to thwart the coming of your kingdom.

People: Raise up among us zeal to take the Good News to the ends of the earth, calling forth missionaries to travel to distant lands and leading us to give generously to support them in their proclamation of the Word of life.

Pastor: Father in heaven, bless our congregations, granting us pastors who faithfully dispense the mysteries of God and who joyfully serve the flock under their care through teaching, prayer and visitation.

People: Grant us to hold fast the blessed truths of your Holy Word and the Biblical Reformation principles that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ’s atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, grant us hearts that grieve our sin and have the sincere desire to repent of it,

People: that we may approach your table in spirit and truth to receive the life and salvation offered to us in the body and blood of Christ.

Pastor: Good and gracious God, grant us thankful hearts, leading us always to recognize you bountiful goodness toward us,

People: that we may daily count our blessings and rejoice in all your good gifts. We join with Curt and Margaret who celebrate your goodness.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, grant to us faithful hearts that believe the promises of your holy Word,

People: granting us to believe that God is able to make all grace abound toward us that we have all we need to accomplish Christ's work among us.

Pastor: Lord of all, bless and defend our nation from every danger within and without, granting us honest and upright public servants;

People: remember in kindness all who serve in our Armed Forces, guiding, guarding, and protecting them day by day.

Pastor: Ruler of all, bless our nation in the final days leading up to the national election, giving to your people wisdom as they cast their ballots,

People: and granting to us leaders of our nation who will rule us according to your good and gracious will.

Pastor: Almighty God, you are a God of healing and hope, therefore we ask for healing for the sick and endurance for those facing difficulties, especially Jerry, Lillia, Robin, LeRoy, Jonathan, Helen, Nancy, Woody, Sarah, Gerald and Joe,

People: strengthen them during their time of trial by your promise never to leave or forsake them, and grant to them patience and grace to persevere.

Pastor: We join with Frank, Jean, Bea and Nancy remembering their loved ones,

People: grant them assurance of a wonderful reunion in heaven.

Pastor: Remembering the sufferings and death of your beloved Son, we place our petitions at your throne of mercy, trusting your promise to hear our prayers and grant us all that we need for this life and the life to come, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF OUR LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord + be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!
(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain:

Lord, May Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain*

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art: *Refrain*

Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden my heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain*

What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and Spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain*

HYMN #760 "What God Ordains Is Always Good"

What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.
As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed In ev'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good: He never will deceive me;
He leads me in His righteous way, And never will He leave me.
I take content What He has sent; His hand that sends me sadness
Will turn my tears to gladness.

What God ordains is always good: His loving thought attends me;
No poison can be in the cup That my physician sends me.
My God is true; Each morning new I trust His grace unending,
My life to Him commending.

What God ordains is always good: He is my friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm Though many storms may gather.
Now I may know Both joy and woe; Someday I shall see clearly
That He has loved me dearly.

What God ordains is always good: Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness, I take it without shrinking.
For after grief God gives relief, My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling.

What God ordains is always good: This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, For with His arm He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me.

HYMN #627 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, Turned away God's wrath forever;
By His bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil foe.

As His pledge of love undying, He, this precious food supplying,
Gives His body with the bread, And with the wine the blood He shed.

Jesus here Himself is sharing; Heed then how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe, His judgment then you shall receive.

Praise the Father, who from heaven To His own this food has given,
Who, to mend what we have done, Gave into death His only Son.

Firmly hold with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed, By hearts that long for peace and rest.

Agony and bitter labor Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose You need not Him who died and rose.

Christ says: "Come, all you that labor, And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician's help or skill.

"For what purpose was My dying If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food If you yourself were pure and good?"

If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest, Be at His banquet truly blest.

Let this food your faith so nourish That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you How much God's wondrous love can do.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: We thank you, almighty Lord God, that you have refreshed us with this
precious gift, and we ask for your mercy that you would let it nurture in
us strong faith toward you and intensive love among us all, through
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you
peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #578

"Thy Strong Word"

Stanzas 4, 5 & 6

From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

Preacher

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Liturgist

Pastor Harold Bender

Lectors

Pat Graf, Virginia Sell, Grant Gundersen

Acolytes

Kaylee Quillen, Nicholas Alioto, Rachel Osell

Organist

Roger Gottschalk

Choir Director

Nancy Hoelke

Music Coordinator

Kim Woller