

REFORMATION DAY

Free Indeed!

October 25 & 26, 2014

5:00 pm & 8:00 am

AS WE GATHER

“Luther’s Seal” or “Luther’s Rose” is arguably the single image that best explains the theology of Martin Luther and the Reformation. In a 1530 letter to Lazarus Spengler, who helped design the seal, Luther writes, First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (*Romans 10:10*). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn’t destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (*Romans 1:17*). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (*John 14:27*). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (*cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12*). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal. *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, second edition; edited by Paul McCain, et al., copyright © 2005, 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

8:00 PRESERVICE ANTHEM “Somebody’s Knockin’ at Your Door” ML Concert Choir

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Ronald Melrose

8:00 PRELUDE “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” John B. Dykes ML Brass Choir

WELCOME

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.

(Romans 3:22-24, NIV)

+ 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 sings Stanza 3

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 over pow’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.*

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He’s by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict’ry has been won’
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 46:1–3*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength,

People: a very present help in trouble.

Pastor: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

People: though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

Pastor: though its waters roar and foam,

People: though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: "Confession has two parts.

People: First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven."

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: O Lord, our God, we confess that during times in our lives when it feels as though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the sea, we have not looked to you as our fortress and strength. Too often we look to ourselves, not fearing, loving, and trusting in you above all things. We humbly ask that for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: "There is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

5:00 HYMN OF PRAISE #528 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Stanzas 1,2,5

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.

Look unto Him, ye nations; own Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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.

(Be seated)

COMMISSIONING OF GROUNDWORK GUATEMALA TEAM

8:00 HYMN "God of Our Fathers" (LW #501) – Setting by S. Drummond Wolff

Introduction: Brass and Organ

Stanza 1: Congregation & Choir

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:
Our grateful songs before Your throne arise.

Stanza 2: Congregation & Choir

Your love divine has led us in the past;
In this free land by You our lost is cast;
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Your Word our law, Your paths our chosen way.

Stanza 3: *Choir Only*

Stanza 4: Congregation & Choir

Refresh Your people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never ending day;
Fill all our lives with heav'n born love and grace
Until at last we meet before Your face.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING *Revelation 14:6–7* (An angel with an eternal gospel)

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* (“Justified by faith”) 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 ANTHEM “*God is our Refuge and Strength*” Allen Pote St. Paul’s Choir

8:00 ANTHEM “*Give God the Glory*” arr. Hal H. Hopson ML Concert Choir

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 8:31–36* (“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”)

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.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #578 “*Thy Strong Word*”

8:00 “*Thy Strong Word*” Setting by Carl Schalk

Introduction: Brass and Organ

Stanza 1: Congregation & Choir

Stanza 2: *Choir Only*

Stanza 3: Congregation & Choir

Stanza 4: *Choir Only*

Stanza 5: Congregation & Choir

Stanza 6: Congregation & Choir

(5)

SERMON

“*Set Free By the Son*”

John 8:31-36

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

8:00 OFFERING ANTHEM

“*A Mighty Fortress*”

ML Brass Choir

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord God, heavenly Father, you are our mighty fortress. In you we find our strength, our protection and our peace through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Through the shield of faith, protect us from the flaming arrows of the evil one, knowing that with the sword of the Word of God the gates of hell cannot prevail against us.**

Pastor: Almighty God, the old evil foe has sworn to harm us, to deceive us and to lead us away from you. His attacks from the world are strong, his inroads into the Church are often subtle. We cannot fight him or resist him in our own strength. We praise you for sending Jesus, who fights for us. We rejoice that through His holy cross, Jesus has forever conquered Satan, setting us free.

People: **Protect your Church, purchased by the blood of Jesus, from Satan’s attacks. Continue to raise up faithful pastors, warriors in your Kingdom, who proclaim Jesus and His cross as our only hope and joy.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, all have sinned and fallen short of your glory. Our good works could not avert our doom, but the Word of the Gospel of Christ proclaims us righteous by grace through faith.

People: **In Holy Baptism, you made us your own, granted us faith and clothed us with your robe of righteousness. Cause us to return to our Baptism each day through the confession of our sins, holding firmly to your promises and seeking to live as your faith filled people.**

(6)

Pastor: O Dayspring from on high, in your love for us you came into this world as the Light of light and everlasting life. Through your Church, continue to shine the Gospel into this present darkness. Remove all that would obscure your light of salvation.

People: Deliver us from the temptation to turn your gift into an earned wage. Save us from trusting the false light from within instead of the true light from above. Rescue us from the despair of unbelief that comprehends neither light nor hope. Send forth your light and your truth, that your Church may bear witness to the love of Christ.

Pastor: Lord, as you have charged your Church to proclaim your eternal Gospel to all who dwell on earth and to sing good news to every people, tribe, language and nation, fill us anew with the zeal that comes from your Spirit.

People: Bless and protect the Groundwork Guatemala team as they go to share your Word with many people. As you have promised, let your Word not come back to you empty, but accomplish that which you desire, leading forth in joy all who trust in you.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the resurrection and the life. Bless and comfort all those who grieve the passing of loved ones and remember dear ones gone on to glory, especially Mary and Larry upon the passing of Dorothy and Jean as she remembers Frank.

People: Grant us all comfort and hope, joy and peace through the victory Christ brings.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, look with compassion on those who are sick and afflicted as well as those facing distressing times. We pray especially for Ginger, Robert, Pastor Stanton, Cindy, Marilyn, Gretchen, Charles, Ray, Marion, Jack, Mark, Richard, Virginia, Rosalie and Sarah.

People: Bring them healing and restoration according to your will and grant them patience and peace during their time of trial.

Pastor: O Bread of life from heaven, you have given us life. Your truth has set us free. As we feast upon your body and blood, we rejoice in the freedom of sonship that comes through the forgiveness of sins.

People: Fill us with faith and trust in this blessed sacrament, that the peace of Christ would be with us always.

Pastor: All honor and glory are yours, Lord Jesus Christ, even as you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Page 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(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.

8:00 ANTHEM "In Remembrance" arr. Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red ML Concert Choir

HYMN #506 "Glory Be to God the Father"

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory While eternal ages run!

Glory be to Him who love us, Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us, Made us kings with him to reign!
Glory, glory To the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory to the King of angels, Glory to the Church's King,
Glory to the King of nations; Heav'n and earth, your praises bring!
Glory, glory To the King of glory sing!

Glory, blessing, praise eternal! Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion! Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, Glory to the King of kings!

HYMN #563 "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.

Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.

When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

HYMN #571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have again
given us this day the gift of forgiveness by your grace, received through
faith in your promise that your Son's true body and blood is given for us,
and that we might be refreshed and rejoice; through Jesus Christ, your
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: So if the Son sets you free,

People: You will be free indeed!

5:00 CHORAL BENEDICTION *"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"* St. Paul's Choir

8:00 CHORAL BENEDICTION *"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"* ML Concert Choir
arr. Beverly Mortensen

5:00 RECESSIONAL HYMN #644 "The Church's One Foundation" Stanzas 1,2,5

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With every grace endued.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

8:00 RECESSIONAL HYMN #917 "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

Introduction: Organ

Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

8:00 POSTLUDE

"La Bourée" arr. Peter Reeve

ML Brass Choir

+ + + + + + +

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Children's Message
Acolytes
Organist
5:00 Choir Director
8:00 ML Brass Choir Director
8:00 ML Concert Choir Director
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Russell Hurst, Heidi Leiser
Laurel Privatt
Brian Schaber, Noah Zimmermann
Roger Gottschalk
Nancy Hoelke
Jessica Kindschi
Timothy Franz
Kim Woller

Thank you to the
Martin Luther
High School
Brass Choir &
Concert Choir for
enhancing our
worship today!