



# **Sunday, October 27, 2024**

## **Reformation Sunday**

### **Introduction**

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

**Prelude...** "As We Gather/The Steadfast Love"

## Gathering Hymn... "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"



1 A migh - ty for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2 If we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing turns to  
 3 Though all the world with dev - ils fill and threat - en to de -  
 4 God's Word shall stand a - bove the pow'rs, shall end all their thanks-



fail - ing; our help - er frees us from the flood of  
 los - ing; the righ - teous one fights by our side, the  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, we trust God's will: they  
 giv - ing. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe,  
 one of God's own choos - ing. You ask who this may be:  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Though Sa - tan rant and rage,  
 God with us is liv - ing. Let goods and kin - dred go,



for - sworn to work us woe, with guile and dread - ful might  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name.  
 in fierc - est war en - gage, this ty - rant's doomed to fail;  
 this mor - tal life al - so; though all of these be gone,



is armed to wage the fight: on earth there is no e - qual.  
 No oth - er God we claim! None else can win the bat - tle.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word shall tri - umph.  
 they yet have noth - ing won. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805–1890, alt.  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546  
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## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

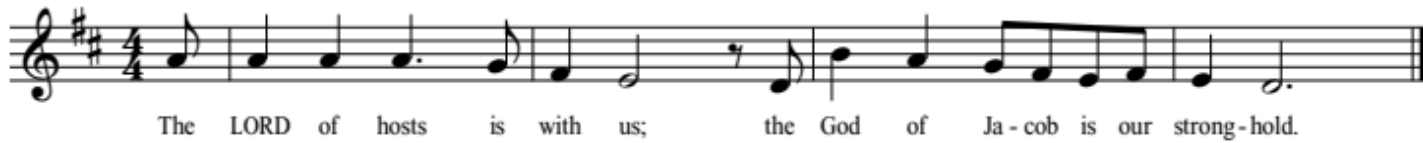
**Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Psalm 46:1-2a, 4-5, 10



<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2a</sup> Therefore we will not fear,  
though the earth be moved,

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams  
make glad the city of God,

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city;  
it shall not be shaken;

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, then,  
and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth."

### Choir Anthem... "His Strength Is Our Song"

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law

within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**HERE ENDS THE READING**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28**

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

**HERE ENDS THE READING**

## **Gospel: John 8:31-36**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## Sermon Hymn... "Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound"



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

**Amen**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**



Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond (*especially Charlie, Eric, Barbara, Lizzy, Christi, Angelika, Jenna, Dave, Joy, Frank, John, Vicki, Janet, Tyler, Kristin, Tom, Michael, Gabriele, Merle, Nancy, Prentice, Rebecca, Bonnie, Kathie, Ruth, Bob, Michael, Peter, Don, Suzanne, Del, Jeff and Eric, Michael, and the family and friends of Nancy and Greta*). Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, in Christ's resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **Offering**

**Offering Song... "In His Time"**

## **Offering Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **Distribution**

*We will be using the intinction method for distribution. You will be handed bread and asked to dip the bread in the chalice. Gluten-free bread and grape juice are available. Please make your way forward by the center aisle, returning down the side. If mobility is a problem for you, please notify an usher and you will be served at your seat.*

## **Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## **Communion Song...“Holy Forever”**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✠ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song..... "God Whose Almighty Word"



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

Please be seated. Women have a special Reformation song on video to share. Open your Connections to the last page to follow along.

## **Reformation Carol**

**There was a monk named Luther,  
As devout as he could be.  
You couldn't find a better  
monk in all of Germany.**

**All of the other friars  
used to laugh and call him names.  
They never dreamed that God would  
lead him down the path to fame.**

**Then one cold October morn  
God's call came to him:  
"Luther, I think you are right;  
I want you to lead my fight."**

**So then he wrote his theses;  
tacked them up for all to see.  
And now the Reformation  
will go down in history...."**

Now, the choir has a special Reformation Polka to sing. The congregation is invited to sing along on the chorus.

If you are staying for the potluck, please take a seat in the Fellowship Hall and wait for instructions.

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**