

REFORMATION DAY

Faithful Christians in a Contentious World

October 26 & 27, 2024

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

In Psalm 12, King David cries out, “Save, O LORD, for the godly one is gone; for the faithful have vanished from among the children of man” (v. 1). The Lord God’s anointed king lives in a troubling world! Many centuries later, Martin Luther paraphrased the words of David, writing in a hymn text in 1523: “O Lord, look down from heav’n, behold and let Thy pity waken; . . . dark times have us o’ertaken” (*TLH* 260:1). Looking at our world today, we can relate to both King David and Martin Luther. Yet both men expressed hope in their written words. In his psalm, David writes, “The words of the LORD are pure words, . . . You, O LORD, will keep them” (vv. 6a, 7a). And Luther confidently writes, “So through God’s Word shall men endure each trial and temptation” (*TLH* 260:5). Reformation Day echoes the call to faithfulness heard by God’s people through the ages. May we listen well!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
(Ephesians 2:8-9, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

(Rise)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

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 & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

People: from everlasting to everlasting!

Pastor: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us,
and atone for our sins, for your name’s sake!

**People: We your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you
forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.**

Pastor: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be
moved, but abides forever.

People: As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *Psalm 130*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, as together we make our confession this day, we use words of a confessional hymn text based on Psalm 130, written by Martin Luther more than five hundred years ago in 1523. In confidence, let us come before our gracious Lord to confess our sins and to receive His gracious absolution. We speak the words of the psalm.

People: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

Pastor: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

People: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Pastor: God has promised His forgiveness of sins to those who repentantly confess their sins, imploring His grace and mercy for the sake of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

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

☩ WORD ☩

FIRST READING *Revelation 14:6–7* (Another angel proclaims an eternal Gospel message.)⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.⁷ And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 3:19–28* (God grants the gift of redemption through Jesus Christ.)¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift,

through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 ANTHEM Grades 1-5 *"One True God"*

8:00 ANTHEM *"Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord"*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 8:31–36* (Jesus proclaims that "the truth will set you free.")

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

People: Glory be to you, O Lord.

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

SERMON HYMN #555 "Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

St. 1-5

Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

What God did in His Law demand And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.

It was a false, misleading dream That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.
The law is but a mirror bright To bring the imbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.

8 AM Choir Only

From sin our flesh could not abstain, Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain, Our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart Or purify our guileful heart--
So deep is our corruption.

Yet as the Law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.

SERMON

(Rise)

HYMN #555

“Salvation Unto Us Has Come”

St. 9-10

Faith clings to Jesus’ cross alone And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known, With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify; Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace; All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav’n above, You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** 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 folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

SPECIAL MUSIC DURING OFFERING

5:00

8:00

Braelyn & Adalyn Zellmer
Ainsley, Emilia & Blake Kosek

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Hear our cries and be attentive to the voice of our pleas, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Son of David! Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Send laborers into your harvest, Lord, and preachers to gather your elect from the farthest parts of the earth. Sustain all pastors and missionaries faithful in their callings. Bless our schools and teachers, our congregations and their servants. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You have appointed us as priests in your kingdom — not to offer dead works out of our own weakness, but to offer prayers and living sacrifices made holy, innocent and unstained by the once-for-all service of Christ, our High Priest. Make every Christian household constant in prayer and good works, since our Savior always lives to make intercession for us. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Strike down the haughty, O Lord of hosts, and every hostile voice that would rebuke the voice of faith with its cries and prayers. Uphold the protection of our nation and its leaders in honest service for the good of the people, especially that the Gospel may be preached and heard without hindrance. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You continue to show love to your people. Teach us how to love one another as you have loved us. Be especially with Rachel Osell and Jake Wolf as they were bonded in marriage this weekend. Pour your love upon them, be their foundation as they grow in their love for one another. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Save your people and be a father to your Israel, the Holy Christian Church. Give courage to the hearts of all who cry to you especially Henry, Jackie, Jerry, Sheri, Charlotte, Carole, Wendy, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Ruth, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah. Give them steadfast faith and be pleased to grant them recovery, that they may follow you now and into everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give eyes of faith to all who commune this day, that believing Christ's promises in His testament, they would discern the true body and blood distributed here in the Sacrament and so taste and see that He is good. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before you, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To you alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**HYMN #644****“The Church’s One Foundation”**

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.

Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,

By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,

Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, “How long?”

And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war

She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore

Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,

And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

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.

HYMN #655**“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”**

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known, For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life.

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

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, that what we have received with our lips we may keep with pure hearts, and that through the gift imparted to us in this present life we may hereafter receive life everlasting; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

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.

People: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN #578 “Thy Strong Word”

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!

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!

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
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Russell Hurst, Debbie Nier
Deaconess Carole King

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