

REFORMATION DAY

Faithful Christians in a Contentious World

October 27, 2024

10:30am

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 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe-
His craft and pow’r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing.
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He-
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
and He must win the battle.

A mighty fortress, a mighty fortress is our God.
A mighty fortress, a mighty fortress is our God.
A mighty fortress, a mighty fortress is our God.
A mighty fortress, a mighty fortress is our God.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him-
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow’rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also-
The body they may kill; God’s truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

A mighty fortress, a mighty fortress is our God.
A mighty fortress, a mighty fortress is our God.
A mighty fortress, a mighty fortress is our God.
A mighty fortress, a mighty fortress is our God.

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

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

“How Great is Our God”

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

**Chorus: How great is our God! Sing with me: how great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.
Repeat Chorus

Bridge: Name above all names, worthy of all praise.

My heart will sing: how great is our God!

(Repeat)

Repeat Chorus

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

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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.

(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

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross, as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Ending: No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

SERMON

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

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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 \times 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 SONG DURING OFFERING

Logan Romano

(Rise)

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.

"You Are My All in All" Jernigan

You are my strength When I am weak
You are the treasure That I seek
You are my all in all
Seeking You as a precious jew'l
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all

**Chorus: Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God
Worthy is Your name**

Taking my sin My cross my shame
Rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all

Repeat Chorus

(Men)
You are my strength When I am weak
You are the treasure That I seek
You are my all in all
Seeking You as a precious jew'l
Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all

(Women)
Taking my sin My cross my shame
Rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all

Repeat Chorus

(Women)
Jesus...
Lamb of God...
Worthy is Your Name
Jesus...
Lamb of God...
Worthy is Your Name

(Men)
Jesus...
Lamb of God...
Worthy is Your Name
Jesus...
Lamb of God...
Worthy is Your Name

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

My faith has found a resting place from guilt my soul is freed;
I trust the ever-living One His wounds for me shall plead.

**Refrain: I need no other argument, I need no other plea;
It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.**

Enough for me that Jesus saves This ends my fear and doubt;
A sinful soul I come to Him He'll never cast me out. **Refrain**

My heart is leaning on the Word The written Word of God;
Salvation by my Savior's name Salvation thru His blood. **Refrain**

Not what my feeble hands have done, can save my guilty soul.
Not what I feel, or do, or say, could ever make me whole. **Refrain**

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

“Cornerstone”

My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus’ Name. (Repeat)

Chorus: Christ alone, Cornerstone, weak made strong in the Savior’s love.
Through the storm, He is Lord. Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In ev’ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

(Chorus)

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone.
Faultless I stand before the throne.

(Chorus Twice)

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Katie Scepanski
Deaconess Carole King

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