

**REFORMATION DAY**  
The Work Righteousness that Saves Us  
October 28 & 29, 2023

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**AS WE GATHER**

On this day when we observe and celebrate the Reformation, our Readings point us to remember the struggles and eventual insights of Martin Luther. God used these struggles and insights of one man in Germany to reshape the Church and let the true Gospel resound all over the world. Luther struggled as a young monk and professor because he had been taught that he, by his works of righteousness, might possibly then qualify to be loved by God. This teaching caused him nearly to despair entirely. But then he read Romans 3:23–24: “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.” Struck by God’s Word here, Luther recognized that it is Christ’s work of righteousness—His dying and rising for sinners like Luther—that saves. Today is a celebration of what Christ has done for sinners like Luther and us.

**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**

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil,  
but living as servants of God.

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:16-17

**HANDSHAKES & HUGS**

**✘ PREPARATION ✘**

**PROCESSIONAL #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!

#### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: By works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight.

**People: God is the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Pastor: Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.

**People: The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.**

Pastor: As you reshaped the Church at the time of Luther,

Preacher

Pastor Harold Bender

Liturgist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen

Student Participants

Malachi Allmann, Ryan Allmann, Micah Baars,  
Matthew Dawursk, Eli Galindo, Nadia Galindo, Peyton Guzikowski,  
Ainsley Kosek, Blake Kosek, Payten Luna, Alexander Meeks, Alysse Partl,  
Brady Romano, Logan Romano, Denver Rudig, Audrey Segura, Noah Segura,  
Madison Vogt, Addie Zellmer, Braelyn Zellmer

Organist

Olivia Kukor

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## BENEDICTION

Pastor: God has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: By grace you have been saved through faith.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. In Christ, you are blessed.

**People: Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL #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.

**People: reshape us in this generation, LORD, to love you with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves, all as a joyful response to your first loving us.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**People: and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**

Pastor: God calls us to confess our sins. We observe a moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

*A time of silence.*

Pastor: God, you formed us in the womb, and you shape our lives to love and honor you and our neighbors.

**People: Yet we are by nature sinful and separated from you. We sin against you in thoughts, words, and actions. For the sake of Jesus, who was tempted in every way as we are and yet without sin, we pray for your forgiveness.**

Pastor: "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." Therefore, by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE #656

### "A Mighty Fortress"

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.

#### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God,

**People: we are the clay, you are the potter.**

Pastor: Form the Church as the place where your gracious gifts find full expression.

**People: Form us into people who receive your gracious gifts by faith.**

Pastor: Let your mercy flow to all who hunger and thirst for righteousness;

**People: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Be seated)

#### **✠ WORD ✠**

**FIRST READING** *Revelation 14:6–7* (In a vision, John sees an angel who declares to all peoples and nations, "Fear God and give Him glory.")<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.**

#### **HYMN #617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"**

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish  
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!  
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
and Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.

No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;

May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee

That Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;

Peace with God once more is made: O Lord,, have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior  
And live together here in love and union

Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us; Grant that heav'nly minded He make us;

Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

#### **COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

#### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. You alone, O Lord, are righteous in all your ways. We thank and praise you for the gift of Christ's perfect righteousness given to us in this Holy Sacrament. What we could never do for ourselves, you have done for us in Christ. Send us from this Table with renewed hearts, ready to serve our neighbors with the love you have first shown us; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BY STUDENTS

### 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 #566 “By Grace I’m Saved”

By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
No! Then this word must true remain: By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit; Our works and conduct have no worth.  
God in His love sent our Redeemer, Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;  
His death did for our sins atone, And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God’s Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.  
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?  
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought Him from His heav’nly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain; As long as God is true, it stands.  
What saints have penned by inspiration, What in His Word our God commands,  
Our faith in what our God has done Depends on grace-grace through His Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation’s furnace tried,  
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble, The Father’s heart is open wide.  
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I’ll rest when dying; In Jesus’ promise I rejoice;  
For though I know my heart’s condition, I also know my Savior’s voice.  
My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

**EPISTLE** *Romans 3:19–28* (“We are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”) <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> 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 CHOIR ANTHEM** “*God Is Our Refuge and Strength*”

**8:00 & 10:30 ANTHEM – School Students**

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 8:31–36* (Jesus declares that to believe in Him is to be truly free.)

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

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup> 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?’” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> 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**

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gates to open wide.  
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in.  
Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

### **SERMON HYMN #583 "God Has Spoken By His Prophets"**

God has spoken by His prophets, Spoken His unchanging Word;  
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.  
In the world's despair and turmoil, One firm anchor holds us fast;  
God is king, His throne eternal; God the first, and God the last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,  
Brightness of the Father's glory, With the Father ever one;  
Spoken by the Word Incarnate, God of God, before time was;  
Light of Light, to earth descending, He reveals our God to us.

God is speaking by His Spirit, Speaking to our heart's again,  
In the ageless Word declaring His own message, now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations One sure faith yet standing fast;  
God abides, His Word unchanging; God the first, and God the last.

**SERMON "The Gospel: Righteousness as a Gift" Romans 3:19-28**

Pastor: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, we give you thanks for all Your servants who have departed this life in faith. We especially bless you today for the great reformers of Your Church who call us back to the Gospel and to the righteousness we have in Christ alone. Keep us in fellowship with them, and bring us at last to our heavenly home to see our Redeemer face to face; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**People: 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.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

#### **PAX DOMINI**

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

**People: Amen.**

#### **AGNUS DEI #550**

#### **"Lamb of God"**

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

**Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

(Be seated)

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

(Rise)

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** 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.

### **10:30 BELL ANTHEM DURING OFFERING**

(Rise)

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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

Pastor: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, sustain your Church. Deliver her from error and preserve in her the proclamation of your Gospel, that it would resound to every nation, tribe, people and language and that all may fear and give You glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all ministers of your Word. Help them rightly to preach Your Law so that all are held accountable to you without excuse and joyfully proclaim your Gospel, that all would know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Bless all missionaries, especially our Together in Mission Partner, Pastor

Chuck Ferry and family. Prosper the preaching of your Word, that many more may be saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, look with compassion on all who are blind to the bondage of their sin. Open their eyes by the words of Jesus, and grant them the true freedom of sonship and a permanent place in Your household. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, make us truly your disciples. Keep us in your Word, free us from all errors, and make our homes and families peaceful. Preserve all fathers and encourage them for their godly task, that children would be brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all civil authorities, especially our president, Congress; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Protect them from the temptations and grant them wisdom and courage to serve with integrity. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, be near to all who cry to you for healing of body and soul especially Janice, Bill, Marga, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Jill, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, June, Shirley, Sarah and all who are afflicted. Grant them release from their afflictions according to Your will. Sustain their hope in the full and final healing that awaits them at the day of Christ's appearing. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, you are the source of all blessings in life. We join with Al Weil in giving you thanks for both the spiritual and physical blessings that come from your hand. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer**

Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all who come to the altar to partake of Christ's own body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins. Grant them repentant hearts that seek to amend their lives, and by your Spirit align them with Your will and purpose. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**