

# Words for Worship Sunday, October 25, 2020

(Recorded October 22)

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS – Reformation Sunday

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

P: God has given us His good and holy law so that we would know wisdom, righteousness, and the life-giving will of God. Yet the law is unable to save us.

**C: We confess that in our hearts, words, and deeds, we fail to keep God's law; we are sinners in need of forgiveness.**

P: The Gospel is the good news that in Christ, God has forgiven us though we did not deserve it. The Gospel is what has saved us.

**C: Word alone. Grace alone. Faith alone. Christ alone.**

P: I proclaim to you the Gospel. For the sake of Jesus Christ and because of Christ's atoning death on the cross, your sins are forgiven. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray:

**C: Almighty God, Your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people again. Keep us steadfast in Your word, protect and comfort us in these times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the Gospel, and bestow on the church a peace that passes understanding, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

#504, verses 1, 2 & 4

1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
He arms Himself to fight.  
On earth He has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match His might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God Himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is He!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God Himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

*Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.*

## KIDS OF THE KINGDOM

**Romans 3:19-25, 28**

<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 silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.

<sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

**John 8:34-36**

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

**SERMON**

“A Grace in Progress”

Pastor Luther Swenson

SONG

*Your Word*

*by Awakening Music © 2020 Awakening Music*

Verse 1

You said  
 You would give Your angels charge around us  
 You said  
 Weapons formed against us shall not prosper  
 You said  
 Truth will be our shield and our defender, You said

Verse 2

You said  
 I am the Alpha and Omega  
 You said  
 I am the bread of life from heaven  
 You said  
 I am the way the truth the life, You said

Verse 3

You said  
 A city on a hill cannot be hidden  
 You said  
 Ask of Me and I will give you nations  
 You said  
 The gates of hell shall not prevail against us, You said

Chorus

Your word  
 can never be broken,  
 can never be broken  
 It is written and it's certain  
 Your word  
 can never be broken,  
 can never be broken  
 It is alive and it is working

Bridge

Your light,  
 Your truth,  
 We claim the blood of Jesus,  
 proclaim the word of Jesus  
 at every door

On every street,  
 on every life,  
 let it release,  
 we claim the blood of Jesus,  
 proclaim the word of Jesus

## LITANY OF DEDICATION OF PLEDGES & OFFERINGS

*Today is our pledge dedication Sunday. Each year Ascension members make a financial pledge for the coming year as an act of worship, and in order that the council can plan responsibly for the coming year.*

P: Let us give thanks to God who has given us every blessing in abundance.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: All our blessings, all that is good comes from You, O Lord.

**C: With great delight we return unto the Lord our pledges of financial stewardship for the coming year.**

P: Let us pray:

**C: Heavenly Father, receive our pledges as the first fruits of blessings yet to come, signs and symbols of the dedication of our whole lives to You. Use our offerings to further the mission and work of Your kingdom that we, as followers of Jesus Christ, may bring witness and blessing to others in Your name. Amen.**

## PRAYER RESPONSE:

We pray using the response, "**Hear our prayer.**"

## HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to You, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in His holy meal.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and forever.  
Amen.

### LAMB OF GOD

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, grant us peace.

#195

## BENEDICTION AND SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace. Live like you have a Savior.

**Response: Thanks be to God!**

- 1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."
- 2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story,  
here you touched Him, saw His glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."
- 3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you,  
here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

*Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.*

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The weather forecast has made it necessary to change our plans for this Sunday's Parking Lot Service.

- Due to the cold temp and potential for precipitation, we will not be holding the Parking Lot Worship Service
- **We will** be holding Drive Up Communion and look forward to seeing you there!
- Our virtual Sunday School and Pre-Confirmation **will be** meeting at 9:00 AM
- **Worship with us online and join us for Holy Communion** during one of the times that work best for you.

Not only is this Sunday Reformation Sunday, it is also Stewardship Pledge Dedication and "Tithe Donut" Sunday. (You might even want to wear something RED in honor of Reformation!)

Drive Up Communion will be from 9:30 until 11:00 AM

Come when you need to, but to prevent long wait times, the following times are suggested:

- 9:30 – 10:00 First half of the alphabet for those not attending the education hour.
- 10:00 – 10:30 Second half of the alphabet for those not attending the education hour.
- 10:30 – 11:00 For those attending education hour and those who prefer to come later.

Enter the parking lot from Broadview Dr. Follow the directions of our parking lot ushers.

Communion will be distributed by Door 1 under the East canopy entrance.

After you have received communion and the blessing, you'll turn the corner and make a stop at Door 2 to:

- Place your offering in the offering basket
- Place your 2021 financial pledges in the pledge basket
- Receive your packet of giving envelopes for 2021
- Receive a tasty treat from the Stewardship team. Yes, the Tithe Donut Holes are back! The donut hole symbolizes 10% of the whole donut. (Donuts were purchased and served in safe, pre-sealed packages.)