Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Divine Service Three

The Festival of the Reformation October 29, 2023



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."

Revelation 14:7



The Festival of the Reformation

October 29, 2023

8:00 and 10:30 AM

Prayer for the Festival of the Reformation

Lord God Almighty, on this Reformation observance, we thank You for the gift of Your holy Word. Satan cannot tolerate the true proclamation of the Word, so he continually distorts and distracts from the divine message through false prophets, false doctrine, and false hope. Lord of the Church, we glorify You for promising that Your Word will stand forever. Thank You for raising up reformers and endowing them with the Spirit to clearly see what is truth in accord with Your Word and to recognize error instigated by Satan and carried out by humans. Fill us with that same Holy Spirit to be eager students of Your saving Word. Safeguard the Scriptures to our synod, our congregation, our families, and us. Reform our hearts through the Scriptures so that we confess our sins and look only to Jesus for salvation. Lord, may we daily search the Scriptures, for they "make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." In the name of Him who is our Savior from all sin. Amen.



The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to

strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Cor. 11:17-34), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the Pastor prior to communing with us for the first time. We thank you for respecting our belief and practice regarding the Lord's Supper.



Confession and Absolution

657 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution [John 20:19–23]

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46



I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]* and shall not be put to shame.

I will bless the LORD at | all times;*
his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast | in the LORD;*
let the humble hear | and be glad.

Come, O children, lis- | ten to me;*

I will teach you the fear | of the LORD.

The LORD redeems the life of his | servants;* none of those who take refuge in him will | be condemned.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]* and shall not be put to shame.

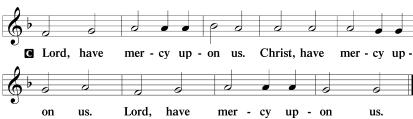
Gloria Patri

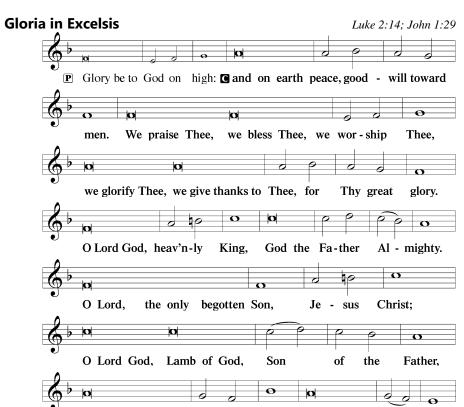




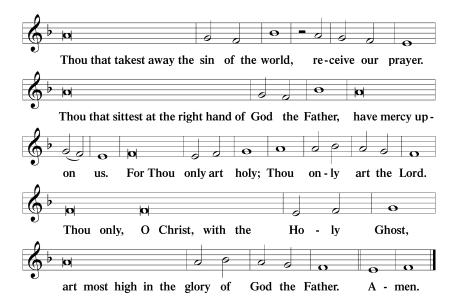


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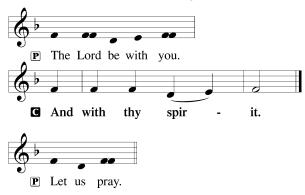




that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P 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.



First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

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. 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."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a



Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised*
in the city | of our God!

Walk about Zion, go around her, number her | towers,*
consider well her ramparts, go through her | citadels,
that you may tell the next gener- | ation*
that this is God, our God forever and | ever.

Epistle: Romans 3:19–28

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. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for 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, 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. 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.

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. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia



Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:12-19

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



[Jesus said:] "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

"But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates,

"'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.





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.

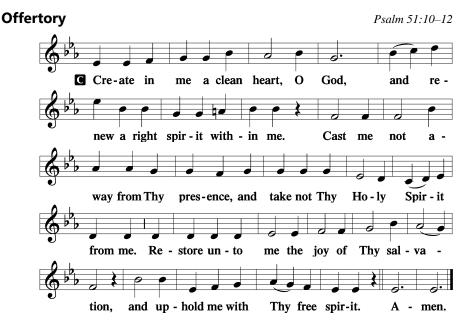
555 Salvation unto Us Has Come vs. 1-6

Sermon

"Proclaiming the Eternal Gospel"

Text: Revelation 14:6-7

Stand



Sit

Offering

(Please add your name to the red fellowship book and pass it to your fellow worshipers.)

Stand

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

- P Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.





Service of the Sacrament

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Please read our Statement on Holy Communion on the inside cover of the bulletin before communing with us.

Preface

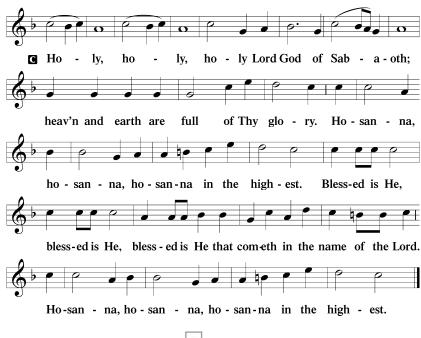
2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



Proper Preface

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

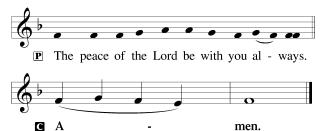
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ⅓ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."







Personal prayer before Communing

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



Distribution

Personal prayer of thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament

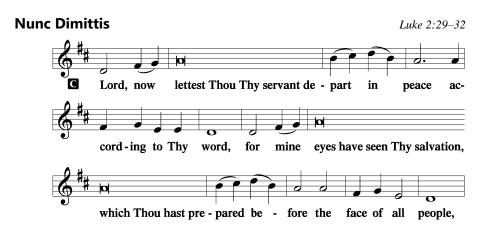
Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

566 By Grace I'm Saved

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

582 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

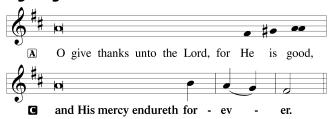
Stand





Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

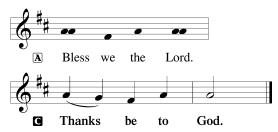


Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

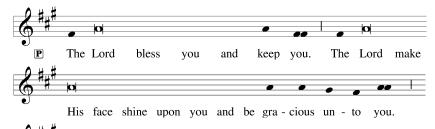


Benedicamus Psalm 103:1



Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26





The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



555 Salvation unto Us Has Come vs. 7-10



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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The Beginnings of the Reformation

Reformation Day is a minor festival and is usually celebrated the last Sunday in October. Reformation Day is being celebrated today, October 29. On this day we recall the work of God in preserving and reforming the church in times of trial and for giving the church teachers and preachers of the truth. The color of the paraments used for Reformation is red, the color of zeal and martyrdom.

Lutherans commemorate October 31, 1517, as the beginning of the Reformation. On that date the Augustinian monk Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses about forgiveness of sins and the abuse of the sale of indulgences on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The first thesis reads: "Our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, in saying 'repent' intended that the whole life of His believers on earth should be a constant penance."

Luther, as a doctor of theology and a professor, explained the Bible to his students and taught them how to explain its teachings to others. In his preaching and teaching he warned his hearers against trusting in good works and self-righteousness. Luther proclaimed that, based on various writings in the Scriptures, people will live eternally because they are justified, that is declared righteous, by God through faith (Habakkuk 2:4).

In April of 1521 Luther was requested to appear before the Diet (Council) of the city of Worms, Germany, to stand trial for his opposition to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Luther stated that he could do nothing against Scripture because God's Word has more authority than the Pope or the councils of the Church. Luther's words caused the Holy Roman Empire to be forever divided, the Lutheran Church to be launched, and annual Reformation services celebrated.

The major theme of the Reformation is that justification is by faith alone, not by works. Even though man is, by nature, sinful and unclean, justification means that we are declared righteous (right with God), our sins are forgiven because of Christ's payment on the cross, and we are given eternal life solely because Jesus rose from the dead to sit at our Father's right hand. All these blessings are given to us by or through faith, faith wrought in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Explanation of Luther's Rose



"Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology.

The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that

I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. For one who believes from the heart will be justified (Rom. 10:10).

Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17) but by faith in the crucified.

Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12).

Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed.

And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal.

This is my *compendium theoligae* [summary of theology]. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation.

May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen."

Martin Luther, Letter to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530.

Announcements



Assisting Elders: 8 a.m. – Keith Christian 10:30 a.m. – Andy Olson



Thank you to Jonathan Hodel and Joe Tabris for the special music this morning.



Pastor and Debbie Skelton request the honour of your presence at the marriage of their daughter, Carol, to William Bassler, son of George Bassler. The service will be held at Holy Cross on Saturday, November 4 at 2:00 p.m. A cake and punch reception will immediately follow the ceremony. Everyone is welcome.

Season of Harvest Celebration

Between now and November 12, when we will have a single worship service, Chile Contest Lunch, and Turkey Bingo, we will be collecting food for the

Help and Hope Center Food Pantry in Castle Rock serving Douglas and Elbert counties. You can deposit your donations on the table in the narthex.

Help & Hope CENTER

Help and Hope Center 1638 Park Street Castle Rock, CO 80109 303-688-1114

https://www.helpandhopecenter.org



Don't forget to set your clocks BACK 1 hour Saturday night, November 4, 2023, before you go to bed.

BEST CHILI CONTEST LUNCH & TURKEY BINGO!

Sponsored by the Elders and the Fellowship Committee



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

9 AM: Sunday School

10:00 AM: Worship Service (one service this week)

11:00 - 11:45 AM: Best Chili Contest Lunch and Voting

11:45 - 1:00 PM: Bingo, with Prizes

GRAND PRIZE BINGO: Frozen Thanksgiving Turkey!

BEST CHILI PRIZES, TOO!

Interested in entering the Best Chili Contest? Contact Kathy Harrington at 209-352-6893.





LWML Women of the Cross has enrolled in the King Soopers/City Market Community Rewards Program. To use the program simply visit the link

https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards. Follow the easy steps provided.

Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. King Soopers donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating King Soopers Community Rewards organizations.



STORE LOCATION:

6512 S. Broadway Littleton, CO 80121

STORE HOURS:

Tuesday through Saturday; 9am – 5pm

STORE PHONE: 720-446-1877

Renewed Treasures is an outreach of Love INC (Love In the Name of Christ), supporting their mission by offering quality resale goods to serve our community and share Christ's love. For over ten years, Renewed Treasures is proud to offer very affordable products in a clean, well-cared for setting in addition to setting an example of stewarding our material resources and our earth. Shop, donate or volunteer. Check them out at https://loveinclittleton.org/renewed-treasures/.



Congregational Christmas Giving "Blessings at Christmas"

This Christmas we again have the opportunity to support "Blessings at Christmas" through AbleLight (formerly Bethesda Lutheran Communities) Ministry headquartered in down-town Littleton. This project is sponsored by "Women of the Cross."

Gift-giving this year is purchasing Gift Cards in any amount determined by your Heart. Suggested gift cards for easiest shopping: Walmart or VISA cards.

Place your "Gift Card" in the slotted Christmas-wrapped box. This will be located on your right side as you depart the Sanctuary. (Cards will be collected after second service.) We will receive your gifts <u>beginning Sunday</u>, <u>November 5 through the deadline of Sunday</u>, <u>December 3</u>.

Should you wish to make a cash donation or by check, make your check to: LWML - Women of the Cross - Memo: For AbleLight Christmas Blessings, and put in the slotted Christmas-wrapped box.



AbleLight will purchase meaningful and useful gifts using the donated gift cards for those living in AbleLight's home situations. AbleLight will wrap and place the gifts under the Christmas trees.

Thank you for your generosity in making someone's Christmas special! Women of the Cross

Petitions and Prayers: When we pray, Jesus appears "in the presence of God for us."



Health concerns:

Gracious Father, grant these people healing as best suits Your will for their lives. Help them to pray, "If it be Your will," and so let them place themselves in Your care forever. You have shown Your love to all who suffer by sending Jesus, who bore all for us in His life and death. We pray in His name. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Dave McCrosky's mother has suffered a stroke. Pray for healing.
- **John Kingham**, brother of **Tom Kingham**, has been scheduled for open heart surgery at the end of this month.
- Kathy, daughter of Helen and Joe Tabris, is recovering from surgery on October 20. Pray for healing and restored faith.
- McKinley Ford, daughter of Erica and Andy Olson, is having doctor appointments trying to figure out the cause of a low white blood count and a resolution.
- Paula Mayer is recovering from surgery for broken arm. Pray for healing and renewed strength.
- **Devon** Hanson (grandson of **Connie and Terry Mitchell**) mental health issues
- Dillon (grandson of Connie and Terry Mitchell health issues
- Roger Frank (brother of Connie Mitchell) cancer
- Mary (relative of Tabris') pray for protection and wisdom for her family concerning special needs.
- Angela (single mother in Illinois) friend of Helen Tabris –waiting for heart transplant
- Jamie (is missing and has mental health issues) and young daughter Jade who has been adopted by family. Pray for the family's salvation.

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life October 29, 2023

"On this Reformation weekend, let's rekindle our commitment to be faithful to the God who both preserves and redeems this world in His ways. And let's remind ourselves of the blessings that come from following Him in all things, now and forever."

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org





God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod) 9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd. Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Sunday Worship Services	8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Bible Classes and Sunday School	9:25 a.m.
Church Office	303-683-1300
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, cell	303-908-3339
Website	www.hclchr.org

Reaching lost souls with the Gospel: Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!



Check out
The Lutheran Hour
Sunday mornings at
6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio or
click on "Listen Now" anytime.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church





Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook. Check us out and Like us at facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch.



Stop coming and saying "Trick or Treat."

I said, "I have 95 Thesis" not "95 Reese's."