

**Reformation Hymn Festival**  
**Sunday, October 29, 2023, 10:00am**  
*Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You Richly, Colossians 3:16*

***Prelude***

***#940, Holy God, We Praise Your Name***

**(All)** 1. Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee. All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore Thee. Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

**(Women)** 2. Hark! The glad celestial hymn, Angel choirs above are raising; Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising, Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord!

**(Men)** 3. Lo, the apostles' holy train, Join Thy sacred name to hallow; Prophets swell the glad refrain, And the white-robed martyrs follow, And from morn to set of sun, Through the Church the song goes on.

**(Choir)** 4. Thou art King of Glory, Christ; Son of God, yet born of Mary. For us sinners sacrificed, As to death a Tributary, First to break the bars of death, Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

**(All)** 5. Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee; Though in essence only one, Undivided God we claim Thee, And, adoring, bend the knee, While we own the mystery.

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty Father, we give You thanks for Your gifts of life, salvation, and creative response.

**C: May we forever offer the best of our art, language, and music that in all things You may be glorified;**

P: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**+ Let The Word of Christ... +**

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

P: Word. What kind of name is that? Moses asks God, "What is Your name?" and God thunders back with the foundation stone of all language, namely "I AM". Truly an affirmation of the beginning of all reality, that God truly IS! And perhaps also an insight into God's nature. God is the Author of Life. And now "I AM" introduces to us His only Son. There are so many names for God in the Bible, but this one, "Word" is among the unexpected. Or is it? God, in His love, has chosen, not to be remote, unknown, and out of touch, but close, familiar, and in constant communication.

**#578, *Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness***

**(All) 1. 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!**

**(Men, all join at 'Alleluia') 2. 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!**

**(Women, all join at 'Alleluia') 3. 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!**

**(Rise, All) 6. 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!**

**+...Dwell In You Richly...+**

L: Now it's God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

P: The Holy Spirit has dug Himself into the hard rock of our hearts and created a new thing, a strong faith, and filled it with treasures and light where there was once darkness.

**#496, *Holy Spirit, Light Divine***

**(Women) 1. Holy Spirit, light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine; Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day.**

**(All) 2. Let me see my Savior's face, Let me all His beauties trace; Show those glorious truths to me, Which are only known to Thee.**

**(Men) 3. Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine; In Thy mercy pity me, From sin's bondage set me free.**

**(All) 4. Holy Spirit, joy divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine; Yield a sacred, settled peace, Let it grow and still increase.**

**+...As You Teach and Admonish One Another...+**

L: Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14:19

P: Everyone's a teacher. The parent shows a child how to communicate. The child teaches a parent how to trust. Your presence here teaches your neighbor the importance of God. Everyone is a teacher by default, but the Christian is commissioned to be a teacher by design.

**#696, *O God, My Faithful God***

**(Women) 1. O God, my faithful God, True fountain ever flowing, Without whom nothing is, All perfect gifts bestowing: Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within, A conscience free from blame, A soul unstained by sin.**

**(Men) 2. Grant me the strength to do, With ready heart and willing, Whatever You command, My calling here fulfilling; That I do what I should, While trusting You to bless, The outcome for my good, For You must give success.**

**(All) 4. Lord, let me win my foes, With kindly words and actions, And let me find good friends, For counsel and correction. Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small, And by Your Spirit's might, To live in peace with all.**

**+...With All Wisdom...+**

L: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise.

Psalms 111:10

P: Everyone has an idea what wisdom is, but not everyone is wise. It's difficult to define wisdom. Knowing what to do? That's knowledge. Knowing what is? That's truth. Having a proper attitude? That's perception. Being right? That's often perception, too. But what's wisdom? To be wise is to know reality and to accommodate yourself to it. So first, know the reality. God, His creation, His law, and His love are real.

**#732, *All Depends on Our Possessing***

**(All) 1. All depends on our possessing, God's abundant grace and blessing, Though all earthly wealth depart. They who trust with faith unshaken, By their God are not forsaken, And will keep a dauntless heart.**

**(Choir) 3. Many spend their lives in fretting, Over trifles and in getting, Things that have no solid ground. I shall strive to win a treasure, That will bring me lasting pleasure, And that now is seldom found.**

**(All) 6. If my days on earth He lengthen, God my weary soul will strengthen; All my trust in Him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding, Like a stream away is gliding; Safe I anchor in His grace.**

**+...In Psalms...+**

L: The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:22-25

P: It's midnight. You're in a scary place. Who's listening to you? What are you singing?

**#710, *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want***

**1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie, In pastures green; He leadeth me, The quiet waters by.**

**2. My soul He doth restore again, And me to walk doth make, Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.**

**3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill; For Thou art with me, and Thy rod, And staff me comfort still.**

**4. My table Thou hast furnishèd, In presence of my foes; My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.**

**5. Goodness and mercy all my life, Shall surely follow me; And in God's house forevermore, My dwelling place shall be.**

**+...Hymns...+**

L: "I will extol the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together." Psalm 34:1-3

P: One of the greatest hymn writers was Paul Gerhardt, a 17th century German Pastor. In one of his hymns, "Evening and Morning", he writes about singing to God: *To God in heaven, all praise be given! Come, let us offer and gladly give, to the Creator the gifts He will prize, gladly receiving our fruits of believing. Hymns that adore Him are precious before Him, and to His throne like sweet incense arise.*

**#790, Praise To The Lord the Almighty**

**(All) 1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation! Let all who hear, Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!**

**(Women) 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning, And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining. Have you not seen, All that is needful has been, Sent by His gracious ordaining?**

**(Choir) 3. Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you, Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you. What need or grief, Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.**

**(Men) 4. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you. Ponder anew, What the Almighty can do, As with His love He befriends you.**

**(All) 5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him! Let the Amen, Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!**

**+...And Spiritual Songs...+**

L: I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.  
1 Corinthians 14:15b

P: Why the distinction: psalms, hymns, Spiritual songs? Psalms, of course, are set apart from hymns because they are taken directly from Holy Scripture, whereas hymns and Spiritual songs are not.

#### **#456, *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord***

**1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh...Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh...Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?**

**3. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Oh...Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?**

**4. Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb? Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb? Oh...Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?**

**+...With Gratitude in Your Hearts...+**

L: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

P: Is joy the absence of sorrow? Is peace the absence of war? Is health the absence of illness? These questions are an attempt to define. But there's a greater depth to a word than mere definition. Application is greater. One might ask, how can there be joy in the presence of sorrow? How can one find peace, even in war? Can health be found in spite of illness? Can gratitude blossom in the most meager of blessings?

Fanny Crosby, author, poet, and hymn writer of the 19th century is the author of many well-known and beloved hymns. Many people don't know or remember that she was blind. She wrote: *O what a happy soul am I, although I cannot see. I am resolved that in this life, contented I will be. How many pleasures I enjoy, that other people don't. To weep and sigh because I'm blind, I cannot, and I will not.*

#### **#895, *Now Thank We All Our God***

**(All) 1. Now thank we all our God, With hearts and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices; Who from our mothers' arms, Has blest us on our way, With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.**

**(Choir) 2. Oh, may this bounteous God, Through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts, And blessed peace to cheer us, And keep us in His**

**grace, And guide us when perplexed, And free us from all ills, In this world and the next!**

**(Rise, All) 3. All praise and thanks to God, The Father now be given, The Son, and Him who reigns, With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore; For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.**

**+...To God...+**

**L: Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him! Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit. Psalm 147:1, 5**

**P: Te Deum, is a Latin title familiar to many. Te Deum Laudamus, translates "We Praise You, O God." Colossians 3:16, the theme of our Reformation Hymn Fest, may not be the official inspiration for this ancient song of the Church, but it does conclude with the words, "Te deum", to God. The "Te Deum", having taken its place in the Order of Matins, has been set to music time and again. There are probably more "Te Deum's" written than any other hymn of the Church, except perhaps for the Magnificat. Every hymn is a "Te Deum" in that it is sung to God. And while our renditions today of the hymns might be glorious and praiseworthy, the glory and praise expressed here are indeed to God. May every hymn be a "Te Deum." May every song we sing be worthy of the title, "Te Deum." May every day be a "Te Deum." May every deed, every thought, every goal, and every one be a "Te Deum." We rise and sing...**

**Te Deum      LSB 223**

**We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.**

**All the earth now worships You, the Father everlasting.**

**To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs therein.**

**To You cherubim and seraphim continually do cry:**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;**

**heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory.**

**The glorious company of the apostles praise You.**

**The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise You.**

**The noble army of martyrs praise You.**

**The holy Church throughout all the world does acknowledge You:**

**The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and only Son;  
also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.**

**You are the king of glory, O Christ;**

**You are the everlasting Son of the Father.**

**When You took upon Yourself to deliver man,  
You humbled Yourself to be born of a virgin.  
When You had overcome the sharpness of death,  
You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

**You sit at the right hand of God  
in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that You will come  
to be our judge.**

**We therefore pray You to help Your servants,  
whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with Your saints  
in glory everlasting.**

**O Lord, save Your people and bless Your heritage.  
Govern them and lift them up forever.  
Day by day we magnify You.  
And we worship Your name forever and ever.**

**Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.  
O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.  
O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be confounded.**

## **The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes**

***Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word      Voice Choir***

## **The Prayers of His Children**

**P: O Lord of life and song, receive these offerings as You have received our praises.  
As you have inspired us with Your blessings,**

**C: help us to sing Your praises.**

**P: As you have strengthened us by the Scriptures and through the gifts of your  
writers and composers,**

**C: help us to share Your praise around our tables, in our neighborhoods, in  
our schools, in our workplaces, and at our leisure, with our lives and with our  
voices.**

**P: We pray O Lord for.....through Jesus our Lord and Savior, who taught us to  
pray,**

**C: LORD'S PRAYER**

## **The Words of our Lord**



# **The Distribution of Holy Communion**

## ***Stand Up*      Voice Choir**

**The Middle Cross    How Great Thou Art**

**The Middle Cross    Thy Word**

P: Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish each other with all wisdom in psalms, hymns, and Spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God.

**C: Amen, thanks be to God.**

### ***#657, A Mighty Fortress is our God***

#### **#657 A Mighty Fortress is our God**

- 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.**
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us, We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot overpower us. Let this world's tyrant rage; In battle we'll engage. His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.**
- 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: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; Martin Luther, 1483–1546

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### ***Postlude***