

Reformation Day (Observed)
October 29, 2023



REFORMATION DAY (OBSERVED) *October 29, 2023*

PRESERVICE MUSIC “A Mighty Fortress” (arr. Pachelbel) &
“The Church’s One Foundation” (arr. Denton)

A Reminder: Please be respectful to our brothers and sisters who use the time prior to worship for quiet meditation on God's Word. - Thank you

656 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need
That hath us now o’ertaken.
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.
- 2 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.

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH

For those who love God all things work together for good. *Romans 8:28*

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

John 8:31–32

- P** Jesus said, “If you abide in My word,
C **you are truly My disciples,**
P and you will know the truth,
C **and the truth will set you free.”**

ANTHEM “First Song of Isaiah” (Jack Noble White) *Adult & Children’s Choir; Bells – Tom & Donna Timm*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

656 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

3 Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpower 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.

4 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.

Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6–7

⁶Then 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. ⁷And 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."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. ⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. ⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. ¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

EPISTLE

Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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. ²⁶It 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. ²⁷Then 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. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “God is our Refuge and Strength” (Allen Pote; based on Psalm 46)

Choir

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

578 THY STRONG WORD

sts. 1–3, 6

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!

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!

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!

△ 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!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76

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SERMON “Set Free in Truth” John 8:31-36

NICENE CREED (Creed can be found in the back of the hymnal and on the screens)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition, please respond with the following:

P Let us pray to the Lord,

C **Lord have mercy.**

At the end of the prayer:

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

LSB 160

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, 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 saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

C **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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

LORD’S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

G 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.

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

For guests and visitors, we invite you to please read our statement regarding the Lord’s Supper on the inside cover of your bulletin.

ANTHEM “Lord, Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread” (Timothy Shaw) *Choir*

HYMN OF THE MONTH - 655 LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

This hymn is trinitarian in form, with each stanza addressed to a successive person of the Trinity. We implore the Holy Spirit in stanza 3 to come to our aid as we are tried and threatened as God’s people. We pray that in the final battle with death, the “Comforter of priceless worth” will support us and lead us into the heavenly peace that comes only in Christ’s kingdom.

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

744 AMAZING GRACE

sts. 1–5

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
 I have already come;
 His grace has brought me safe thus far,
 His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
 And mortal life shall cease,
 Amazing grace shall then prevail
 In heaven's joy and peace.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
 We've no less days to sing God's praise
 Than when we'd first begun.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
 Text: Public domain

566 BY GRACE I'M SAVED

sts. 1–2, 5–6

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 5 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?
- 6 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.

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709–61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Text: Public domain

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.

G Amen.

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C Amen.

644 THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION*sts. 1, 4–5*

- 1 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union
 With God, the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won.
 O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
 Lord, save us by Your grace
 That we, like saints before us,
 May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.

Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (arr. Burkhardt)

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