

The Lutheran Church *of* Vestavia Hills
REFORMATION

October 30, 2022

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Reformation Sunday

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PRELUDE

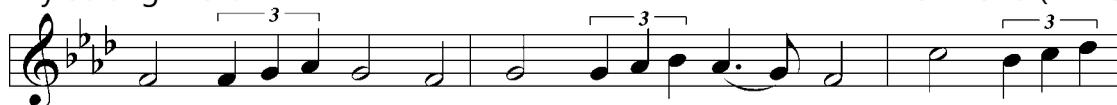
"Ein Feste Burg, BuxWV 184"

D. Buxtehude

OPENING HYMN

"Thy Strong Word"

LSB #578 (v. 1-3)



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
night and deep as death, Broke the light of
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

“Satisfy them in Your truth,
Your word is truth.”

~John 17:17

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will
 forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**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.**

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.

Amen.

PSALMODY

~select verses from Psalm 119

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

Forever, O LORD,
Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

Oh how I love Your law!
It is my meditation all the day.

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for Your testimonies are my meditation.

I understand more than the aged,
for I keep Your precepts.

I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep Your word.

I do not turn aside from Your just decrees,
for You have taught me.

How sweet are Your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

+ BIBLE PRESENTATION TO THIRD GRADERS +

Payton Coffee

Asher Noon

Miller Sloan

Cooper Taylor

THEME HYMN

"God's Word Is Our Heritage"

LSB #582



God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for -



ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our



chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way, In death it



is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its



teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6-7

(An Eternal Gospel)

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."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 3:19-28

(The Righteousness of God through Faith)

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

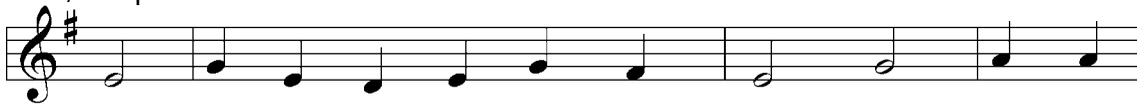
and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former 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.

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

GOSPEL PREPARATION HYMN

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB #655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the Eighth Chapter.
Glory to You, O Lord.

(Abide in My Word)

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

LSB #657 (v. 1-2,4)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

SERMON

"This Is Real Truth"
John 8:31-32
Vicar Andrew Frerichs

OFFERING

~Please sign the Record of Fellowship during the offering~

VOLUNTARY

"Prelude on Wareham"

H. Willan

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

~please be seated for the Distribution~

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"

LSB #556



1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re-joice, With ex-ul-ta-tion
2 Fast bound in Sa-tan's chains I lay; Death brood-ed dark-ly
3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or mer-it
4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be-fore the world's foun-



spring-ing, And with u-nit-ed heart and voice And ho-ly
o'er me. Sin was my tor-ment night and day; In sin my
gain-ing; Free will a-against God's judg-ment fought, Dead to all
da-tion, And mind-ful of His mer-cies great, He planned for



rap-ture sing-ing, Pro-claim the won-ders God has done, How
moth-er bore me. But dai-ly deep-er still I fell; My
good re-main-ing. My fears in-creased till sheer de-spair Left
my sal-va-tion. He turned to me a fa-ther's heart; He



His right arm the vic-t'ry won. What price our ran-som cost Him!
life be-came a liv-ing hell, So firm-ly sin pos-sessed me.
on-ly death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suf-fered.
did not choose the eas-y part But gave His dear-est trea-sure.

~the Distribution Hymns continue on the following page~

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (continued)

"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"

LSB #563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

"Salvation unto Us Has Come"

LSB #555



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and fa - vor;
2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could ren - der
3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had giv - en
4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un - ceas - ing;



Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They help and save us nev - er.
Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For man, the vile of - fend - er.
That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And by their works gain heav - en.
The task was use - less and in vain, Our guilt was e'er in - creas - ing.



Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
Our flesh has not those pure de - sires The spir - it of the
The Law is but a mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
None can re - move sin's poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord Almighty bless us and direct our days and our deeds in His peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Thy Strong Word"

LSB #578 (v. 4-6)

4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -
ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It features a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) over groups of three notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

5 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!

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!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Toccata for Trumpet and Organ"

G. Martini



*We sincerely thank Paul Mosteller (organ) and James Zingara (trumpet)
for sharing their talents with us this morning*



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS

201 So. Montgomery Highway Birmingham, Alabama 35216
 Church office: 205-823-1883 PreSchool/MDO: 205-791-5200
 Web Site: www.vestavialutheran.org
 WORSHIP: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sundays
 SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15 a.m.
 Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday



PASTOR: The Reverend Michael D. Ahlemeyer – pastor@vestavialutheran.org text: 205-201-8866
 PASTOR EMERITUS: The Reverend Clifford Hellmers – vestluth@juno.com
 VICAR: Andrew Frerichs – vicar@vestavialutheran.org
 DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Ruth Johnson – ruthinbham@gmail.com
 DIRECTOR OF MOTHER'S DAY OUT: Brooke Heisler – bheisler@vestavialutheran.org
 CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Leigh Walter – lwalter@vestavialutheran.org
 CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT: Amy Alvis - aalvis@vestavialutheran.org
 BOOK KEEPER: Melanie Goodson - bookkeeper@vestavialutheran.org
 ADOPTED MEDICAL MISSIONARIES - Arianna and David Shirk, Madeline & Annabelle - shirkdavid@gmail.com



TO OUR GUESTS: We offer you a warm welcome in the name of Jesus. Please sign the Friendship Register. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to have you become a part of our church family. Please feel free to speak with the Pastor about membership in our congregation. If you do have a church home, we pray that God will bless you as you continue your growth in faith and love.



SUNDAY SCHOOL Adult Bible Classes meets in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. Children, Confirmation, and Youth classes also meet at 9:15 a.m. in the class rooms downstairs.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH and NURSERY Following the Children's Message, all children ages 3-7 are invited to Children's Church downstairs. They will return to the sanctuary after the sermon. A nursery attendant is provided for children ages birth to 3 years during our 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services.



COMMUNION We invite all baptized Christians who acknowledge their sinfulness, trust in Christ as their Savior, and who recognize the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and wine to join us at the Communion table. The practice of our congregation is to place the bread into the extended hand of the communicant. The wine is offered in individual cups; please take one from the tray as it is offered by the Elder. The common cup will be offered to those who do not take an individual cup. The cups in the center of the tray are filled with non-alcoholic wine, in consideration of persons who should not drink wine. Also, children who have not received Communion instruction are invited to come to the Communion rail, fold their hands and receive a blessing.