

**Reformation Day**  
**Wednesday, October 27, and Sunday, October 31, 2021**

**Introduction to the day**

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE: Built on a Rock** (Harlan; organ solo)

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: God Is Our Refuge and Strength** (Larson)

*The congregation is invited to sing this verse near the end of the anthem:*

1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he, amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great,  
And armed with cruel hate  
On earth he has no equal.

## **GREETING**

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

## **KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Praise Ye the Lord**

### Refrain:

L Praise ye the Lord, hallelujah!

**C Ev'rybody praise the Lord.**

L Praise ye the Lord, hallelujah!

**C Ev'rybody praise the Lord.**

1 L Praise God with the sound of the trumpet;  
Praise God with the lute and the harp;  
Praise God with the timbrel and dancing;  
**C Praise God wherever you are. Refrain**

2 L Praise God with holy cymbals;  
Praise God with strings and with pipes;  
Praise God with clashing cymbals;  
**C Praise God with all of your might. Refrain**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 46**

<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup> though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup> **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup> **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup> **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup> behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup> **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28**

A reading from Romans.

<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. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: John 8:31-36**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON: "BECAUSE THE SON MAKES US FREE"**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God** (v. 2 & 4)

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, tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*; © 1978 admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: 2021 onelicense.net A-712659.

## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day**

**he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the**

**Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

Each prayer ends with...

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

## **COMMUNION**

## **COMMUNION MEDITATION SONG: We Eat the Bread of Teaching**

### Refrain:

We eat the bread of teaching,  
Drink wine of wisdom,  
Are given here a taste of the kingdom.  
Together joined, the greatest and the least,  
We all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.

1 Wisdom calls throughout the city,  
Knows our hunger, and in pity  
Gives her loving invitation  
To the banquet of salvation. *Refrain*

2 Simple ones whose hearts are yearning,  
Come and gain from Wisdom's learning;  
Bread and wine she is preparing,  
Know her loving in the sharing. *Refrain*

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## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**

- 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.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Text: John Newton; alt., st. 1-4.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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