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Saint James Lutheran Church



A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship, and Service"

REFORMATION SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2020



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.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

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.

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*

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

A reading from Jeremiah, the thirty-first chapter.

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. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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: *Psalms 46*

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

A reading from Psalm Forty-six.

- ¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
- ³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- 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 the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
- ⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.
- ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- ⁸Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;
- ⁹behold 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.
- ¹⁰“Be still, then, 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 stronghold.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: *Romans 3:19-28*

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

A reading from Romans, the Third chapter.

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. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For 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.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 8:31-36*

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the eighth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They 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?’” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Glenda Poole, Organist / Patsy Black, Betsy Ballard, Kim Miller, Chris Miller, vocalists



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 -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
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
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary,

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 THE PEOPLE

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In this family of faith we give thanks for faithful voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

God in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Built On A Rock

KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS

The Liturgy Has Ended; The Service Begins!

Music Copyright Information

Built on a Rock Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt. Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #735002 All rights reserved

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please e-mail all information to the church office at keith@sjnc.net

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PRAYER LIST

Kevin Velasco, friend of Lois Marlow
All health care professionals and first responders including:
Deb Bradshaw
Lauri Fowler
DeeDee Gilbert
Annette Propst
Meagan Lambert
Alison Monk
Jason and Stephanie Matthews
Dr Bradley Propst, son of *Kenny and Annette Propst*
Sam Hurley, son of *Elizabeth Hurley*
Julie Greathouse, friend of *Lois Marlow*
Betsy Waselovich, sister of *Golda Jay*
Lauren, daughter of *Angie Buchanan*
Dr. Stephanie Garrison, daughter-in-law of Margaret Garrison
Dr. Kevin Burns, son-in-law of Margaret Garrison.

If you have someone you would like to add to the prayer list, please contact Keith. 704-786-0166 and leave a message or email at keith@sjnc.net

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

27-Oct Michael Folino
27-Oct Joan McEachern
28-Oct Cliff Caffrey
28-Oct Linda Hartsell
28-Oct Riley Moran
28-Oct Donnie Peterman
28-Oct Taylor Pruette
28-Oct Heather Wilson
28-Oct Drew Yoos
30-Oct Adam Hartman
30-Oct Jackson Propst

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor:

Gretchen Walker

Vocalists:

Patsy Black, Betsy Ballard,
Kim Miller, Chris Miller

OUR STEWARDSHIP
Contributions and Receipts
for October 18, 2020
\$6,233.00
(\$8,414.00 needed for weekly)

Join Saint James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups—send Jeremy Jay any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at jeremy@pbnjay.com

St. James YouTube Channel
Search for St. James Lutheran Church Concord NC and subscribe.

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The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith.....Bishop

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OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:30-4:00, F 8:30-1:00
Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:00