

8:00AM Divine Service

Reformation Sunday
31 October 2021



It Is the Gift of *God*

(Please register your presence with us by filling out one of the Member/Guest cards found in the pew rack in front of you and giving it to the usher or placing into the offering plate.)

AS WE GATHER

Martin Luther's great hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is based on Psalm 46. When the psalm was first written, it gave courage to God's Old Testament people. Centuries later, when Luther wrote the hymn, the world was filled with plagues and death, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. Further, neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the government accepted the teachings of the reformers. Now, in our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists, political polarization, and ecclesiastical division. Because of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, we need not fear. Our gracious God is a very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the powers of the created world around us and the forces of evil from every source. From His throne flow streams of mercy to give us confident joy. We know that in the end "the kingdom ours remaineth."

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC — *WER NUN DEN LIEBEN GOTT*

arr. Gerald Peterson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ GOD PREPARING US FOR HIS PRESENCE ✠

(Cleaning Us with His Word of Forgiveness)

INVOCATION *(Stand)*

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

OPENING GATHERING

Tune: Was Frag Ich Nach Der Welt 67 67 66 66

Psalm 103

(Sing) **By grace we have been saved, by God's abundant favor.
It is the gift of God through faith in Christ, our Savior.
No merit may we claim, no effort of our own;
It is the gift of God through faith in Christ alone.**

P With all my heart I praise the Lord, and with all that I am I praise His holy name!

C **With all my heart I praise the Lord! I will never forget how kind He has been.**

P The Lord forgives our sins, heals us when we are sick, and protects us from death.

C **His kindness and love are a crown on our heads.**

P Each day that we live, He provides for our needs.

C **He gives us the strength of a young eagle.**

P How great is God's love for all who worship Him?

C **Greater than the distance between heaven and earth!**

P How far has the Lord taken our sins from us?

C **Farther than the distance from east to west!**

(Sing) **When we were dead in sin, God sent His Son to save us.
It is the gift of God that life eternal gave us.
By God's abundant grace we with the Lord are raised.
It is the gift of God, whose name fore'er be praised.**

P The Lord is always kind to those who worship Him,

C **and He keeps His promises to their descendants who faithfully obey Him.**

P God has set up His kingdom in heaven, and He rules the whole creation.

C **Let all of God's creation and all that He rules come and praise the Lord.**

P With all my heart I praise the Lord.

(Sing) **We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus.
It is the gift of God that thus His mercy frees us.
To live in holiness the life that God desires.
It is the gift of God that such good works inspires.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray...Your Word tells us, Lord, that it is by grace we are saved, not by works, and that it is a gift from God, lest anyone should boast. Let us bask in the blessing of this true gift from You of our salvation from sin, death and the devil, not because of anything we have done but because of what Your Son did for us on the cross by dying in our stead for our transgressions and rising to life three days later that we might live a new life in heaven with You. May this miraculous message, uncovered again during the Reformation, which we celebrate this day, be our guiding light and our bold claim in how we live our lives for You. Amen.

C **Amen.** *(Sit)*

✠ GOD SERVING US HIS WORD ✠

(Clothing Us with His Word of Truth: Law and Gospel)

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-11

¹“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to Me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
My steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,
for He has glorified you.

⁶“Seek the LORD while He may be found;
call upon Him while He is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

⁸For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are My ways higher than your ways
and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth;
it shall not return to Me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G *(Spoken)* **Thanks be to God.**

(Sing) **God is our Refuge and our Strength, our Helper ever near.
The Lord of hosts is on our side to shelter us from fear.**

**Though mountains fall and storms arise and fearful tempests blow,
Our God is with us, and He leads where peaceful waters flow.**

**God's steadfast help will surely come as certain as the dawn.
The Lord of hosts is on our side, so let all fear be gone!**

**The trembling nations hear His voice, their awesome Sov' reign own:
"Be still, and know that I am God, and I will reign alone!"**

**Come and behold what God has done: as adversaries yield,
He breaks the bow and snaps the spear and burns with fire the shield.**

**O God our Refuge, God our Strength, accept the praise we bring.
For mercy shown by grace alone through Christ, our Savior-King!**

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2:1–10

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C *(Spoken)* **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE *(Stand)**Tune: Darwall's 148th 66 66 88*

(Sing) **It is God's gift alone that we are justified.
That wondrous grace was shown when for us God's Son died.
Alleluia! By faith alone God's gift we own. Alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:1-10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

C *(Spoken)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, ²since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had with You before the world existed.

⁶“I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave Me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You. ⁸For I have given them the words that You gave Me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰All mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C *(Spoken)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

ALLELUIA VERSE *(Stand)*

Tune: Darwall’s 148th 66 66 88

(Sing) **It is God’s gift alone that we are justified.
That wondrous grace was shown when for us God’s Son died.
Alleluia! By faith alone God’s gift we own. Alleluia!**

HOMILY *“It Is the Gift of God”*

CREEDAL HYMN

Tune: O Store Gud

**We all believe in God, almighty Father.
Who shattered chaos, said, “Let there be light!”
Sun, moon and stars show forth His praise together,
All things on earth His wisdom and His might.
God loved the world so much He freely gave His only Son the lost to save.
God loves each child; by faith we understand it is God’s gift—a Father’s hand.**

**We all believe in God’s true Son, Christ Jesus,
Born of a virgin, for us crucified.
His holy death and resurrection frees us.
To rise from sin, and in his grace abide.
Ascended to His throne in heav’n on high with saving love He still is nigh.
He will return as Shepherd, Judge and King. He is God’s gift—His praise we sing!**

**And we give thanks for God the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son,
By whose blest inspiration we inherit the benefits of all that Christ has done.
The holy Church is gathered ’round the Word where God’s good news in faith is heard.
Forgiven and forgiving, we shall rise to claim God’s gift of Paradise.**

OFFERING: THE BELL CHOIR *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*

arr. Lauran Delaney

PRAYERS and LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING DIALOG

- P** God, the Supreme Majesty, the Creator and Maker of all things, was so concerned for us lost sinners, children of wrath and of everlasting death, that He spared not His own Son but delivered Him to the most ignominious death, so that we might be made just and blessed, children and heirs of God.
- C** **Who can sufficiently declare this exceeding great goodness of God?**
- P** When God in His sheer mercy and without any merit of ours has given us such unspeakable riches, shall we not then freely, joyously, wholeheartedly, unprompted, do everything that we know will please Him?
- C** **We give ourselves as a sort of Christ to our neighbors, as Christ gave Himself for us.**
- P** It is the gift of God that He has blessed us. Now receive the benediction:
The Lord bless and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Tune: Ein Feste Burg (Rhythmic) 87 87 55 56 7

(Sing) **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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

POSTLUDE — EIN' FESTE BURG

arr. Noel Rawsthorne

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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