



The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 25, 2020

The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.

Thank you, Lord of life, for this beautiful fall day! May all who worship here know the warmth of your presence and the sunlight of your love.

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.

Hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (Verses 1 & 4) ELW 504

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

- 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, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

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.

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.

³¹The 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.

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.

¹⁹Now 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.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

³¹Jesus 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.

Homily The Rev. Kurt Strause

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response is “**Hear our prayer.**”

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

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;

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn “The Church’s One Foundation” (Verses 1 & 5) ELW 654

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.

5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed 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

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world bearing the Good News of Christ in word and deed.

Thanks be to God.

The Sanctuary Candle today is presented in loving memory of John Nicholas by the congregation.

Chancel Flowers are given in honor of grandson Brady's 12th birthday by Pappy and MeMaw Habecker.

Calling all talent. Singers, musicians or any talent you want to share. We are putting together a Christmas Night of Music. This will be a virtual event. You can video yourself or arrange a time to come to church to have us video you. After we get all the videos together, we will post a link on YouTube. December 6, 2020 is the deadline for submissions.

Contact us at webmaster@swamplutheran.org with your ideas to let us know what you plan to do or if you need help.

Katie Houck
Sue Kittler
Shirley Achey – neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Jean Wolf
Don Risser
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Mary Kring – Aunt of Linda Ream
Mary Jane Miller
Roger Gehman – father of Gaile Gehman



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.



Michael Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Henry Rehlich
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Mary Jane Miller

Card Shower – Mr. Clair Sweigart will turn 90 on October 31, 2020. Let us celebrate with him this milestone in his life. Cards should be sent with encouragement and prayer to:

Mr. Clair Sweigart
120 Woodchuck Drive
Ephrata, PA 17522

OPPORTUNITY - You can help those in need by contributing to the Action Fund. Christmas gifts for needy families and funds for emergencies such as heat, housing, food, or medicine are just some of the ways we help others. If you want to make a contribution to the Action Fund please make your check payable to "Swamp Lutheran Action Fund" and give it to Pastor Strause.

Online QUILT and CRAFT Auction: Lutheran Camping Corporation, Sunday, November 1 – Sunday, November 8, 2020.

Join us for this year's Quilt and Craft Auction online. This fun-filled week of bidding raises money for the LCC Endowment Fund, which helps to financially sustain our fine ministry activities, including Camp Kirchenwald, Camp Nawakwa, and the Wittle Farm.

Preview items and register at <http://www.lutherancamping.org/quiltauction>. Items will be added through October, so check back often.

Register and preview items as they are added and begin bidding November 1, 2020. With questions, contact either the Camping office 717-677-8211, or Connie Taylor, 717 940-3953.

Poinsettias and Cyclamens – Orders are being taken for Poinsettias and Cyclamens; either red or white. Deadline to order is Sunday, November 29, 2020. Pricing will not be available until the end of October. Please contact Jodi Showalter (717-413-7149) or the church office with questions. When ordering please provide the following information:

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Poinsettias RED _____ WHITE _____
Cyclamens RED _____ WHITE _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Service committee would like to help EASS stock their shelves this upcoming holiday season by everyone doing a reverse advent calendar.

Start with an empty basket, box, or bag and every day between Sunday December 1st and ending Sunday December 20th add a non-perishable food item to the container. Possible ideas are canned meats, canned vegetables, cereal, rice, pasta, canned fruit, hamburger helper, mac & cheese, peanut butter, jelly, and fruit juice.

Then on Sunday December 20th or Christmas Eve bring the filled container to church and we will donate the items to EASS.

This year make someone else's Christmas a little bit brighter. Thank you in advance for your support.

Another opportunity for advent is to read a chapter in the Gospel of Luke each day and by December 24th you will have read the entire book of Luke.

Monetary donations are being accepted to help defray the cost of the turkeys and food for the families at Christmas.

One last service opportunity for Christmas, is to go online to ELCA.org/goodgifts or phone 1-800-638-3522 and purchase animals, school supplies, seeds, etc. to help our neighbors in need. These gifts grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. What a great way to share our gifts with others. If questions, contact Jodi Showalter (717) 413-7149.