

Immanuel Lutheran Church



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Reformation Sunday October 26, 2025



True Freedom

We are blessed with many freedoms in this country. We have freedom of speech. We have freedom of religion, with the freedom to assemble. We live in the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” It is easy to rely on our citizenship for proof of our freedom. In that way, we are like the Jewish people at the time of Jesus. They relied on their Abrahamic lineage for freedom, recalling the covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants. While these national freedoms are great blessings, in the Holy Gospel, Jesus points out that for true freedom, one must be free from slavery to sin. Only in Christ is anyone truly free.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & BIRTHDAY BLESSING 10/26 Sandra Newman

♪ Thanks for our friends who celebrate
And God's rich blessings contemplate.
Praise for another year on earth.
Praise to the Lord who gives us birth. Amen.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" #656

Please stand as you are able.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!"

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 35:10*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.

Pastor: The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

PSALM OF THE DAY *hymnal page 219*

Pastor: O Lord, open Thou my lips,

People: ♪ And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

People: ♪ make haste to help me, O Lord.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son ✠ and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Hallelujah!

ANTIPHON

Pastor: Oh, come, let us worship the Lord.

People: ♪ For He is our maker.

VENITE *hymnal page 220-221*

♪ **O come, let us sing unto the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.**

**For the LORD is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
the strength of the hills is His also.**

**The sea is His, and He made it,
and His hands form-ed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our maker.
For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture
and the sheep of His hand.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son ✠ and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: **The Lord be with you.**

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
O God of glory, we worship You who made heaven and
earth, the sea and the springs of water. We worship You
who freely forgives us through the propitiation of Jesus'
blood, which justifies us freely by Your grace; through
Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with
You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world
without end.

People: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Revelation 14:6-7 (*Fear God and worship Him*)

⁶ Then 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. ⁷ And 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."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Romans 3:19-28

(All have sinned and are freely justified by God's grace.)

¹⁹ Now 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. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom 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. ²⁶ It 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.

²⁷ Then 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. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE *Luke 12:32*

Alleluia. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL John 8:31-36 (*It is only through Jesus that we become free.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED *Found on the last page of your pew hymnal.*

Please be seated.

HYMN "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" #655

SERMON "Our Mighty Fortress" Psalm 46
Rev. Paul Hoemann

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN “We Give Thee But Thine Own” #781 v1-2

**We give Thee but Thine own,
What e’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee,**

**May we Thy bounties thus,
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord of hosts, we give You glory and thanks for being our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, especially on this Reformation festival. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Thank You for the gift of Your grace that alone sets us free through the blood of Your Son, Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Faithful and forgiving God, thank You for bringing us to faith in You. It is through this faith alone that we are saved. Grow us in Your grace and guide us by Your Spirit in living our faith daily. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, You have given us the Word of Life. Strengthen us by Your Word. Lead and guide us by Your truth. Give Your church on earth faithful pastors who preach and teach the Gospel in all its purity. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You are the One who sets us free. In You alone our hope is found. You are our strength and our refuge. Remember all who face adversity of any kind, especially Liz, Myron, Betty, Karla, Dan and Ian. Comfort, strengthen, and heal them by Your Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Preserve Your church, O Lord, and each of us as members of Christ's Body, that we may not surrender the true Gospel for any reason but be kept in this faith and fear throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage, until that day when we and all Your people shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward You have prepared for us and all who have loved His appearing. To You alone be all glory, now and forever, for You rule and reign as one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: ♪ And with thy spirit.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: ♪ Thanks be to God.

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!"

People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: 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.

People: 🎵 **Amen.**

HYMN “Fight the Good Fight” #664

POSTLUDE

THE MESSENGER

October 26, 2025

WELCOME! Dear guest, we pray that your worship with us is as spiritually enriching for you as your presence is encouraging to us. We invite you to sign our guest book in the foyer. Please leave your email address if you would like periodic updates from Immanuel. Most importantly, come back and worship with us again next Sunday.

SERVING US TODAY: Rev. Paul Hoemann
Linda Rayburn, Organist

IN OUR PRAYERS: Liz Kraft, Myron Kimber, Betty Peuster, Karla Kass, Dan and Ian Henggeler

LAST SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: 26 Total, 9 guests

THE LUTHERAN HOUR theme for next Sunday, November 2nd is **"The Way Out"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Jesus alone is the Way out, rescuing us from sin, despair, and death. He calls us to live as people "on the way." (1 Corinthians 10:13)
Listen online at <https://www.lutheranhour.org>.