

Reformation Sunday- October 26, 2025- Traditional

True Freedom

As We Gather

Reformation Sunday is not just a special day to celebrate our history by remembering the story of Martin Luther; it is a perfect opportunity to rejoice in the freedom we have been given from sin and death through Jesus Christ alone. By gathering to receive His Word and to share in His Supper, we come to know yet again the eternal Gospel that is being proclaimed to all who dwell on earth. This good news not only sets us free from our captivity to sin and death, but it also enables us to live a life of freedom in Christ and boldly share with others, with the help of the Holy Spirit, how they, too, may be set free. The same Savior who speaks His Word to us says to all the world: “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36).

#656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Though devils all the world should fill,
 All eager to devour us,
 We tremble not, we fear no ill;
 They shall not overpow’r 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.

- 4 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.

Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

Isaiah 35:10

- P** Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.
C **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.**
P 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.
C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 34:1–2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

- P** I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O Lord, and shall not be put to shame.
C **I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**
P My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.
C **Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**
P The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O Lord, and shall not be put to shame.

Hymn of Praise *“This Is the Feast”*

LSB.155

C *Ref.* This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Ref. This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

Ref. This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
4. Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

Ref. This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

5. For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

Ref. This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

C Amen.

First Reading

Revelation 14:6–7

⁶Then 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. ⁷And 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.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 3:19–28

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

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

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 8:31–36

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

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

sts. 2–3

- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Rev. Jim Wonnacott

Creed

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

"Create in Me"

LSB 192

**☐ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
 Amen.**

Offering

#781 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

sts. 1, 6

1 We give Thee but Thine own,
 Whate'er the gift may be;
 All that we have is Thine alone,
 A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

 6 And we believe Thy Word,
 Though dim our faith may be:
 Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
 We do it unto Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97
 Text: Public domain

Prayers of the Church

**☐ Lord, in Your mercy,
 ☐ hear our prayer.**

Preface

**☐ 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 Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** It is good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, for You have set us free and justified us by Your grace, as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom You put forward as a propitiation by His blood. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him are set free from the power of sin and death and will rise again to new life in the city of God, the place of Your holy habitation. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord of hosts, the God of Jacob, our fortress, for You have had mercy on all whom You have created by sending Your Son, Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

As we gather in Your name and the memory of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Lead us to faithfully eat and drink His body and blood. Gather us together as we celebrate the freedom we have in Christ. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

#636 “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight’s splendor,
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav’nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him,
And with loving rev’rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal
He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him,
Saying, as you there adore Him:

Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,
That I nevermore will leave You.

- 3 He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
And His blood, for you once given.
- 4 Now in faith I humbly ponder
Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless
Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
Pledge and seal of my salvation!
- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness

And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
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#821 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood.”
- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
When the forty days were o’er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
“I am with you evermore”?
- 3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;

Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.

- 5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.
Text: Public domain

#617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

- 1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:
O Lord, have mercy!
- 2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:
O Lord, have mercy!
- 3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!

O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:
O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546
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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray.
O God of Jacob, we give You glory for sending Your Son to set us free. We thank You for setting this feast of forgiveness before us. Empower us to proclaim Your eternal Gospel to all who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benediction

Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11; Numbers 6:24–26

- P** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- C** **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
- P** “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”
- C** **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

#664 “Fight the Good Fight”

sts. 1, 3–4

- 1 Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Your joy and crown eternally.
- 3 Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove
Christ is your life and Christ your love.
- 4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see
That Christ is all eternally.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–75, alt.
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