

## Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Please use the bulletin below to guide you through the service. For those using a computer/smart phone with video on Zoom, you will be led through the service with Power Point.

\*Congregation members may be muted at times during the service as needed to maintain audio quality.

**God Spots for this week.**

**Praise and thanksgiving to God for Megan who passed her boards.**

### **Announcements—**

**This week we pray for:** Jack, Lea, Shirley, Karen, Mike, Liz, Anderson, Lucille, Emil, Todd, Ted, Jasmine, Antoinette and Leigh.

**November 1 is All Saints Sunday. We will be unable to give flowers for our loved ones who have passed away before and during 2020, but we will list them and read off their names. All names must be submitted by Monday, Oct 26. Please email (strawchurch@gmail.com) or call in your loved ones' name to the church phone at (908)454-2864. If no answer Carol will get the message off of the phone.**

**Drive-thru/in-person communion will be held Sunday, October 25 from 10 am to 11am at the church. Please wear masks and maintain social distancing when receiving communion.**

**We realize a lot of changes are being made concerning church. However, expenses continue for our church. Benevolence is one not only for us, but helps to support others in their work. A locking mail box has been installed for your convenience to drop off envelopes during this time. Please continue to give.**

**The Covid Outreach Committee is planning donations for the month of October which includes hygiene kits and groceries. Please help us do God's work by donating. Enclose your donation in a marked envelope for "Covid 19 donation" and mail to the church or put in our new locked mailbox at the church. Hygiene supplies can be left on the main porch. Thank you.**

**Due to continued concern of Covid 19 it has been decided that we will continue with church services on Zoom and dial-in as shown below.**

**Zoom Dial-In Number and Code:** Call: 1-646-558-8656

When asked, use access code: 908-454-2864

No Participant Code.

Password: 1750

**Reminder for those using video on Zoom:** Be mindful you are on camera

## **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**HYMN**

**SATURDAY. A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD**

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



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  
 your 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!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
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**GREETING (ELW p. 266)**

**SUNDAY**

**I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY**

## I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

### *Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo - ry



and tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

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.**

### **KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**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.**

### **FIRST LESSON**

*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.*

### **FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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. <sup>34</sup>No 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.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 46**

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depth of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold 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.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## **SECOND LESSON**

*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.*

## **SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28**

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom 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; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, Word of life

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL**

*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 **John 8:31-36**

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They 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’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

<sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.

<sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN (SUNDAY ONLY) A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD**



## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



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  
 your 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!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
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## APOSTLES' CREED (LBW p. 84)

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 courageous 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.**

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING(SUNDAY ONLY)**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

*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. **Amen**

### **HYMN**

**SATURDAY- SENT FORTH BY GODS BLESSING**

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Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing, The  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing, The

seed of his teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing, Shall  
 your feast you feed us, With your light now lead us; U -

peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave.  
 tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.

blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all. His  
 nite us as one in this life that we share. Then

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed The  
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing. In love ev - er car - ing, Em -

grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us To  
 may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing Give

fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve. The With  
 brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and race.

work for God's king - dom and an - swer his call.  
 hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
 We will. Thanks be to God.

**Pastoral Care:** If you need pastoral care for yourself, family, friends, or a loved one, please call the church office or contact Pastor Stephen Yambor (908)386-2778. The machine will ask for your name. Pastor Kramer is also available at (908)763-6704.