

October 25, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

Reformation Sunday

Prelude:

Welcome and Announcements:

Gathering Music: ELW 453 - *“Baptized and Set Free”*

Gathering Hymn: ELW 654 - *“The Church’s One Foundation”*

Greeting: 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 and This Is The Feast:

Prayer of the Day: Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Lamentations 3: 21 - 24

A reading from Lamentations.

²¹But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

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

Psalm 63: *“I Long For You, O Lord.”*

Second Reading: Ephesians 4: 1 - 6

A reading from Ephesians.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. **Alleluia.**

Gospel: John 14: 26 - 27

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily: If you ever had the opportunity to read the Book of Lamentations, you will quickly notice that it is very aptly named. Almost of all this little book in Hebrew Scripture is a litany of complaint, misery and sorrow. It is, for the most part, certainly not a book of comfort. But, if you want to know that someone shares

your misery in life, or you are feeling all alone in your sadness, the Book of Lamentations is definitely the place to go.

Tradition says the book was written by the prophet Jeremiah; though some of it references events that happened after Jeremiah's life, so it may be a compilation of laments – some of them Jeremiah's, perhaps. We may never know for sure who wrote the Book of Lamentations or who may have compiled it. The problem is, back then, you could write or collect something in someone's honour and say it came from them. These days, that would probably get you into a lot of trouble. Personally, I would rather not meet someone who spends their time writing or collecting laments because I doubt they would be the life of the party.

Laments do serve a purpose, because they remind us that God will listen to our sorrows, our soul's complaint, our struggles, and that God has compassion on us. They also allow us to be completely honest with God, and truthful. God does not expect us to be endlessly cheerful and suffering is a part of our life, even as the blessed children of God, even as faithful Christians. God does not expect us to pretend that everything is always fine. Our Lord certainly never did and he also spoke words of lament in times of struggle, suffering or sorrow.

Yet, in the midst of this somewhat depressing Book of the Hebrew scriptures, filled with lamenting, we find one of the most beautiful expressions of the hope and joy that we have in the tender-hearted loving-kindness of God we call Grace: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ends. Great is Thy Faithfulness." It is an expression of our deep faith even in the midst of the world's suffering, sorrow and pain...and maybe even growing out of deep sadness because it is the source of all true hope.

Our life in Christ, our living in God's Grace, does not depend on how we feel. It does not even depend on our faithfulness. What it depends on, entirely, is God's faithfulness towards us and God's refusal to let us go and God's desire to hold us in mercy and love. Whether we are frolicking in the fields as God's little lambs or denying Christ in the courtyard like Apostle Peter, we still belong to our gracious God because that is God's choice for us and for our lives. God's mercy will be new for us each day as we live in the gift of Grace.

Faith is a gift of the Spirit, not a work on our part. Some of us are really going to struggle to live with that gift, and for others it will be a breeze. In the end, none of that really matters, because all that does matter is that God loves us and we shall forever share the life of his Son, the Risen One as a precious gift that no one and no thing can take away from us. We live every day in the gift of our Baptism and in the peace that comes from knowing we belong to God and we are cherished by God as the beloved ones.

It is good to say how much that means to us, to affirm it and confirm it...and I am sure it warms the heart of God and makes the angels sing for joy. And so we celebrate today in the best way we can, bringing our praise and thanksgiving to God, forever rejoicing in the tender-hearted kindness of God in our lives and especially in the lives of our confirmands on this holy day. **Amen.**

Hymn: ELW 733 - *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

Prayers of the Faithful: God of wisdom, give the Church courage to journey with Christ and live the Gospel. May the light of Christ shine brightly from us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of joyfulness, we celebrate the faith of Kaitlyn, Naomi, Mollie, Alex, Joshua and Ty this day. May they continue to grow in your

grace and mercy as your beloved ones. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gentle God, bring peace to our hearts in these troubled and fearful times. Be with those whose anxiety feels overwhelming and help us be gently with people struggling to cope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we pray for all who are ill and all who are preparing for, or recovering from surgery: Erin Dupuis, Florence Felske, Richard Hubert, Dorian Verch, Wesley Weichenthal, and all who seek peace and wholeness. We thank you for your gifts of healing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are working on vaccines and treatments during the pandemic and for all who care for those struggling with the virus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for those who showed faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, gracious God.

Gathering all our prayers into one, we pray the prayer that you have taught us:

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: May our Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us in the Risen Life of Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sending Song: ELW 504 – “*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*”

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

News and Announcements:

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Erin Dupuis, Florence Felske, Richard Hubert, Dorian Verch, Wesley Weichenthal

A DONATION has been made to the general fund by Sandra & Murray Sell in honour of Geraldine Belore’s 85th birthday, October 27th. We ask God’s continued blessings for Geraldine. *“The Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. May the Lord be with you.” 2 Thessalonians 3:16*

OUR CONFIRMANDS - Today we celebrate, with joy, the Confirmation of Kaitlyn Weatherbee, Naomi Hoffman, Alex Hammel, Joshua Rautio, Mollie Hoffman and Ty Phannenhour at our 11A.M. Eucharist.

EMERGENCY CLOSING - With Covid-19 creating so much uncertainty we feel it is necessary to have a plan in place on how we will notify our members if we need to close the church on short notice. Should this be required there will be lots of media attention that should have the members questioning our closing. We will do the following:

- Have the voicemail message at the church office updated indicating our closing date and restrictions.

- A message will be posted on our Facebook account and our church website.
- We will send an email to all members who have an email account on file.
- We will identify people that have been attending our worship services by using the registration sheets completed each week and will call these people.

Susan Dupuis

CLWR LEARNING AND LIVING KITS CANCELLED - We have just heard from our Dean of the Ottawa St. Lawrence Conference Area Bruce Thompson that due to the COVID Pandemic the learning kits will not be able to be shipped due to excessive cost and difficulty in shipping this year.

If you have already purchased items for the kits, we would still welcome your donations. We have made arrangement to give the school supplies to children in need in our own community. The toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap, etc. will be packaged along with other items for the residents of Carefor at Christmas.

You may bring your donations into the church and we will collect them in the big yellow bag but the supplies will be used locally. We shall keep you updated when we receive more information. Thank you for your understanding.

Ellen Vandersleen, Chair Social Ministry Committee

JAM JAR FUNDRAISER - It is that time of year that your Social Ministry Committee is launching the Jam Jar Fundraiser. This year we have chosen **Gifts From the Heart** Program from CLWR (Canadian Lutheran World Relief). This is an exceptional program

that assists families which in turn leads to self sufficiency. It also helps their local economy. Depending on the monies raised will determine how we will help.

For example last year \$75.00 would purchase a pair of goats for a family. These goats would provide milk to help feed their families. The goats would also breed in time to promote long term growth. A pair of oxen and plough was \$500.00. With a pair of oxen more soil can be tilled more quickly allowing time for other activities such as attending school. Some gifts are matched 3x (the oxen and plough) or 4x (Emergency food) thanks to Canadian Foodgrains and the Canadian Government. Our money has the potential to go far.

You may pick up a jar at the registration table to fill with change or other. Cheques are always welcome. If you wish to have a tax receipt, we will need your name and address or envelope number if there is cash only in the jar. This campaign will run until the first week of Advent; November 29, 2020. Thank you for your generous support.

Your Social Ministry Committee

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE - Our community garden has had a successful first year. A small group of us harvested the potatoes Monday October 19. We dug about 150 - 175 lbs. of large potatoes from our little garden. All the potatoes will be donated to St Joseph's Food Bank. A special thank you to Al Kellough, Peter and Pat Wegner and Pastor Stephen for helping with the harvest. In August – September, we picked about 32 lbs. of green and yellow beans which were also given to the food bank. What a blessing to help the community in which we live. *What does the law require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

ZLW – Our ZLW (Zion Lutheran Women) will be meeting on Wednesday, November 4th at 2 p.m. in our Sanctuary. The program will be on “Remembrance Day.”

Today’s Scheduled Worship Leaders

Counters: Lisa Campitelli, Karen Gauthier, David Lehman

Greeter: Debbie Wegner

Guides: The Grosskleg Family

Projector Operator: Krista Grosskleg

Sexton: Diane Hammel

Worship Assistant: Brenda Dole

This Week at Zion – October 26 – November 1

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| Tuesday | 7 p.m. | Narcotics Anonymous |
| | | DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF |
| | | COMMITTEE BUDGETS |
| Wed | | BULLETIN DEADLINE |
| Sun | 10 a.m. | Holy Communion (<i>All Saints</i>) |
| | 11:30 a.m. | Confirmation Class |