**Service of the Word for Sunday, October 10, 2020**

**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost and Reformation Sunday**

**Gathering**

*God calls us together in worship*

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers.

You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you. Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism. Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

L: Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN …………………** **“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”………………………Hymn 503**

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;

he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.

The old evil foe, sworn to work us woe,

With dread craft and might he arms himself to fight.

On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!

We would be lost, rejected.

But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.

Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he!

Christ Jesus our Lord, God's only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,

we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.

This world's prince may rage, in fierce war engage.

He is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

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.

If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,

wrench our life 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.*

**GREETING**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

**Kyrie** *(to be spoken)*

Organist: Kyrie eleison: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

Organist: Christe eleison: **C: Christ, have mercy.**

Organist: Kryrie eleison: **C: Lord, have mercy.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

**Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song.*

### 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: 1

1Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

 2**Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.** 

3They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;  
  everything they do shall prosper.

4**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,** **but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

### 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

L: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

34When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” 37He said to him, “ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38This is the greatest and first commandment. 39And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”  
  41Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 42“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” 43He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,  
 44‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand,  
  until I put your enemies under your feet”’?  
45If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” 46No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

##### HYMN of the day……………… “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”………...…….. Hymn 779

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

and grace my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear

the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares

I have already come;

'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,

and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;

his word my hope secures;

he will my shield and portion be

as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

bright shining as the sun,

we've no less days to sing God's praise

than when we'd first begun.

*Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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 to the dead.\***

**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**Prayers of Intercession**

L: With confidence in God’s grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

In your love, you speak to your church. Give courage and the bond of love to all who gather in your name, that this love turn toward our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

L: In your love, you create our earth filled with living things of every kind. Sustain the intricate connections among plants, insects, animals, and organisms we don’t even know or recognize. Bless the work of scientists who help us extend neighbor love to the natural world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: In your love, you guide with justice. Inspire leaders for truthful conversations and wise policies, that decisions are made for the good of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: In your love, you tenderly care for your children and nurse them to health. Bring relief to all those who need healing, hope, or restoration this day, especially: the family and friends of Bev Gray and Zach Kasefang, all dealing with the COVID-19 virus, Allyson and her twins, Jillian, Jasmine, Kristi, Betty, Brian, Marilyn, Andrew, Jane, Ivy, Chuck, Dave, Preston, Dr. Granzow, Kelsey, Wyman, Jason, Elizabeth, Kelli, Lee Etta, Scott, Ann, Drew, Lynnette, Cathryn, Ken, Rich, Harold, Jim, Colt, Landon, Bob, Steve, Charlene, Becky, Denny, Linda, Maddie, Leslie, Andrea, Ron, Daniel, Adolph, Larry, Pat and those we name silently in our hearts (*Pause*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

L: In your love, you accompany us in life’s transitions. We pray for new parents, those grieving a loss, those who are retiring, and those embarking on new ventures. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

In your love, we remember those who were dear to us and now rest in you. We give thanks for Martin Luther and all who seek to reform and renew your church. Give us courage to live out your gospel, revealing your love until our days on earth have ended. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **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.

**C:** **Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Sending**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

L: Mothering God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN……………………“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”…………..…….Hymn 517**

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who by deceit or sword

would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.

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.

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, 1827-1878, alt.’*

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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