

Reformation Sunday
October 26, 2025
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
10:00 am Contemporary Worship

PRELUDE - *words for following*



Martin the German

Chris P. Matthy / tune: "Frosty"

Martin the German was a sorry, mixed up soul,
'Cause he thought it odd that a loving God
Would condemn him straight to hell.

Martin the German even took a sacred vow
When a lightning strike nearly took his life
But St. Anne stepped in somehow.

It must have seemed like magic when old Habbukuk he found,
'Cause when he read "God saves by faith" he began to dance around.

O, Martin the German felt reborn again that day,
And he spread the word from old Wittenberg
All the way to Rome, they say.

Thumpity thump thump, thumpity thump thump,
Nail them to the door;
Thumpity thump thump, thumpity thump thump,
Hear those Theses roar!

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

stand as able

A Mighty Fortress

Martin Luther 1527 / ELW 504

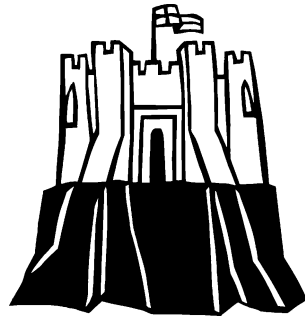
A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful 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.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty 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 can not overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgement 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.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!



LITANY FOR MISSION (Leonard Sweet)

Let us be beacons of hope, standing tall
Like lighthouses on the shores of despair

Our spirits, prisms that fracture the dark
Into rainbows of infinite possibility

We are the torchbearers, the dream casters
Crafting tomorrow from the threads of today

Who but us can kindle the flames of faith?
In our hands, we hold the embers of change

So let us rise, radiant with mission
Our hearts, constellations for the lost

For in this twilight of uncertainty
We are the dawn that breaks, unfailing

Together, we'll paint the sky with divine images
A masterpiece of resilience and grace

For hope is not found, but forged in souls
And we are its guardians, its voice, its home

Throw from the future the Rope of Hope!

Alleluia! Christ is Here

Greg Ronning

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is here.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Salvation appears.

God's Word is spoken and heard; we are set free.
A light unto our path; we all can see.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is here.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Salvation appears.

God's presence to have and to hold in the bread and the wine.
The feast of victory, God's love divine.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is here.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Salvation appears.

Blessing, honor, glory and might, be to God and the Lamb.
All the people of God are singing forever, Amen!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is here.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Salvation appears. Al-le-lu-ia!

Alleluia Christ is Here from the Alleluia Liturgy by Greg Ronning. Used by permission

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. 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. Amen**

be seated

READING - Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146 - *read responsively*

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

Women: **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

Men: though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Women: **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

Men: God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

Women: **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

ALL: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob s our stronghold.

Men: Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

Women: **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.**

Men: “Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

ALL: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob s our stronghold.

stand as able

Marvelous Light

Hosea 2:23 / 1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people,
In order that you might proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you
out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people;
Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people,
In order that you might proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you
out of darkness into his marvelous light,
out of darkness into his marvelous light.

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The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL - John 8:31-36

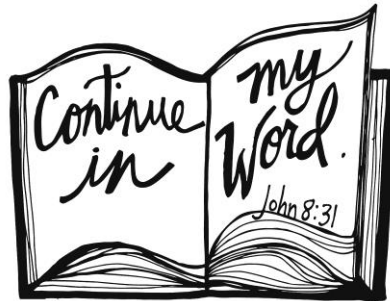
³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

be seated



Goodness of God

Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson

I love you Lord. Oh, your mercy never fails me.
All my days I've been held in your hands.
From the moment I wake up until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God.
All my life you have been faithful.
All my life you have been good, so good.
With ev'ry breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love your voice. You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, you are close like no other.
I've known you as a father, I've known you as a friend.
I have lived in the goodness of God.
All my life you have been faithful.
All my life you have been good, so good.
With ev'ry breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after, running after me.
Your goodness is running after, running after me.
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give you ev'rything.
Your goodness is running after, running after me.

All my life you have been faithful.
All my life you have been good, so good.
With ev'ry breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.

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stand as able

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

John Newton / Chris Tomlin / Louis Giglio

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost but now I'm 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.

My chains are gone, I've been set free; my God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I've been set free; my God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone, I've been set free; my God, my Savior has ransomed me,
And like a flood his mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine,
But God who called me here below, will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

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RESPONSE TO THE WORD

In October of the year 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses, or propositions, on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church as an invitation to debate the sale of indulgences for forgiveness. That event sparked a reform movement that eventually led to a Lutheran church and separate denominations. While there is much sorrow in the disunity which the Reformation caused, Luther did establish the idea that the Church is always in need of reform in the light of the gospel. Luther's primary principal that Christians are justified by God's grace through faith in Christ has also found universal acceptance among denominations. Today we pray for church unity, for the purity of God's word, and for a church that is always open to reform and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Here we stand, Lord,

giving thanks to you, for you are our Rock forever.

Here we stand, Lord,

giving thanks for those who reformed the church so long ago.

Here we stand, Lord,

giving thanks for those reforming the church by the gospel today.

Here we stand, Lord,

witnesses to your good news for all. By your grace we are saved.



By the word, God guides our lives, forgives our sins, inspires our thoughts, shapes our attitudes, lightens our darkness, gives us eternal hope, and fills our hearts with joy, assuring us of God's constant presence, until we come at last into the glories of the heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER SONG

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema - ELW 752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill (*especially*). Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints (*especially Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt*). Give us hope in your Son's victory through the cross. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYER SONG

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share the peace.

be seated

OFFERING

stand as able

OFFERTORY SONG

Create in Me

Mary Rice Hopkins - W&P 35

Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you;
Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might be renewed.
So fill me and heal me and bring me back to you.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION GREETING

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 our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night 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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
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

Lamb of God

Sara Thomsen

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, give us your peace,
Give us your peace.

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COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

*Communion is continuous; lectern side communes first, followed by pulpit side.
Grape juice is available in filled glasses; gluten free wafers are available if requested.*

BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Let us pray together. O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel Stone / Samuel Wesley / arr. cpm

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the word.
From heaven above he sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses with every grace endued.

Nowt she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won,
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
That we, like saints before us may see ... you ... face ... to ... face.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God!



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