

A Reformation Celebration

October 25, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

“Reformation: the action or process of reforming an institution or practice. Dramatic change. Radical alteration. A complete shift.” So says Bing, anyway. And for many people Reformation marks a time in history some 500 plus years ago, when a then, little-known catholic monk—Martin Luther—posted 95 Theses on the church door. It was the common practice of the day to invite debate, to say, “Let’s talk about some things.”

The things Luther wanted to talk about? Word alone. Grace alone. Faith alone. That we are saved by grace alone through faith alone; in Christ alone. It is the basis of who we are and what we believe as Lutherans. And so on Reformation Sunday we celebrate our rich Lutheran heritage. We celebrate God’s grace.

But back to Bing. The action or “process” of... Something we sometimes forget. That Reformation is not simply a day in history, but the ongoing work of God in our lives, in the church, in our world.

God is ever reforming; ever dramatically changing, radically altering, completely shifting our lives toward grace and life and hope, towards faith alone in Christ alone!

And so today; while much of the language we use today is borrowed from the past and the writings of Martin Luther; today we celebrate the gifts of our ever-present God who is leading us into hope and life ***by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone!*** Thanks be to God!

GATHERING

On this Reformation Sunday, we begin our worship as we are called to begin each day of our lives in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

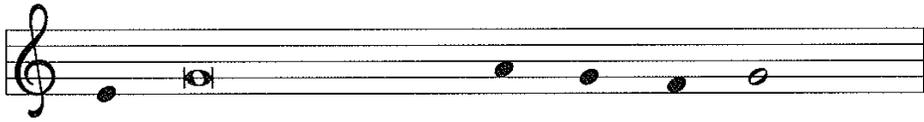
Amen.

Narrator 1 In the tradition of the Reformation, we look today to the Word of God, the words of the church throughout the centuries, and the words of God’s people today.

Narrator 2 And in the tradition of the Reformation, we offer songs of faith, ancient and new, inspired by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to Jesus and resounding with the love of God.

SOLO "Ancient Words"

LITANY OF PRAISE *ELW* p. 299



Give glory to God, our light and our life.



Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

(PKC sung) Give glory to God, our light and our life.

(SL sung) Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

(PKC) Come, let us sing to the Lord;
(SL) Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation!

(PKC) Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
(SL) And raise a loud shout to God with psalms!

(PKC) For you, Lord, are a great God,
(SL) And a great ruler above all gods.

(PKC) Come, let us worship and bow down;
(SL) Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.

(PKC) For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture.
(SL) And the sheep of God's hand.

(PKC) Come, let us sing to the Lord;
(SL) Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation!

(PKC sung) Give glory to God, our light and our life.
(SL sung) Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

Narrator 1 Our first reading comes from the prophet Jeremiah, written the sixth century B.C. Jeremiah shows us a God who yearns for us, a God who has wonderful things in store for us, a God who grieves when we turn away. Jeremiah calls us to grieve and to repent when we fail to respond to a love that passionately desires our good. And as we respond, we discover the compassion of God, who alone can restore us.

READING Jeremiah 31: 31-34 -*Recorded at home and inserted into service*

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. 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. 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. 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.

God's story, your story,
Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word,
we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

"Only By Grace" (Lines 1-6) W&P 112 *words only*

Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand;
not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb.
Into your presence you call us, you call us to come.
Into your presence you draw us, and now by your grace we come,
now by your grace we come.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

**Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me calling.
Incline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling.
Do not regard my sinful deeds. Send me the grace my spirit needs;
without it I am nothing.** *(Martin Luther, WB 600)*

"Only By Grace"

Lord, if you mark our transgressions, who could stand?
Thanks to your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.
Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand;
not by our human endeavor, but by the blood of the Lamb.
Into your presence you call us, you call us to come.
Into your presence you draw us, and now by your grace we come.
Now by your grace we come.

True to God's promise, almighty God has mercy on us, forgives us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ. By grace we have been saved.

**In you alone, O God, we hope, and not in our own merit.
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Holy Spirit.
Your promise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross, your signature,
Inscribed upon our temples.** *(Martin Luther, WB 600)*

Narrator 1 "It is in God that we shall hope!" More than a dozen times, the Psalms refer to God as a refuge . . . for the oppressed for the poor, in our day of distress . . . And in our Reformation Psalm, God is a refuge from even the most extreme forces, the most turbulent events in our world and in our lives.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change,
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.
Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved.
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar,
The kingdoms totter;
He utters his voice,
The earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the Lord:
See what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
He burns the shields with fire.
Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations.
I am exalted in the earth.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SONG

"A Mighty Fortress" (vs 1&4) ELW 504



A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 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
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 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.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Narrator 2 Martin Luther and other leaders of the Reformation believed the heart of the gospel was found in the words Paul wrote to the Romans. All people have sinned, but God offers forgiveness through Christ Jesus. We are justified, or put right with God, by grace through faith in Jesus.

READING Romans 3:19-28 [Recorded at home and insert video here](#)

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

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

God's story, your story,
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE "In Christ Alone" (vs 1)

Voice



1. In Christ a - lone, my hope is found, He is my
light, my strength, my song; this Cor - ner - stone, this so - lid
Ground, firm through the fier - cest drought and storm. What heights of
love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
cease! My Com - for - ter, my All in All, here in the
love of Christ I stand.

Narrator 2 Yes, in Christ alone the righteousness of God has been disclosed. And through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, we are freed from the power of sin: no guilt in life, no fear in death. Christ makes us free indeed!

GOSPEL John 8:31-36

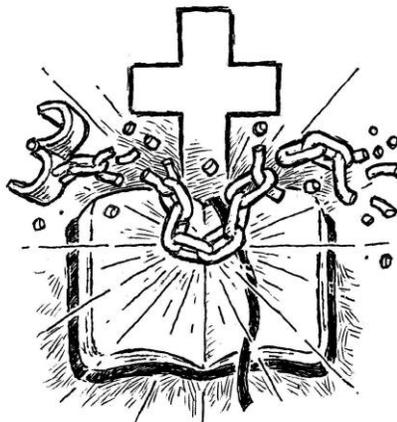
The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th Chapter.
Glory to you O Lord.

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 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'?"

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

The Gospel of our Lord
Praise to you O Christ

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY "Canticle of the Turning" (vs 1&4) ELW 723



My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the

Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the

mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.

liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my

This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my

prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?

crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

In scripture and song we have heard the Word of Christ to believers of all places and times; and as believers today, we can freely confess the faith in which we baptize, the faith in which we live.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation saying, Life giving God, **Hear our Prayer**

A brief silence.

God of grace, free us to be your church in the world. Form our mission and ministry in ways that truly and tangibly give new life, hope, and grace in to the full. Life giving God, **Hear our Prayer**

God of grace, free us and all that you have created good. Help us to abandon wasteful habits. Fill us with your Spirit and lead us to find better ways to honor what you have given for the life of all. Life giving God, **Hear our Prayer**

God of grace, free us to live as brothers and sisters with all people and nations. Shatter the distinctions in our world that create hatred and fear. Open our eyes to see one another as people who bear the image and likeness of Christ. Life giving God, **Hear our Prayer**

God of grace, free us from unhealthy lifestyles, and from all things that harm the health and well-being of all. Give rest to caregivers, infuse medical workers with skill, inspire scientists to find cures. Make us well, whole and healthy in mind, soul and body especially Sharla , Debi, Renee, Marion, Arne, Eva, Olai and Suzy, Dave and Trudy, Lyle and Marlene, Olivia, Syd, Pastor Dick and Jan, Corrie, Patrick, Myrna, Klaus, Harriet, Shirley, Eowyn, Catherine, Grace, Lilian, Margaret, Clayton, Montgomery, Rosemary, Landon, Wayne, Elizabeth, and Judy and Ron . Life giving God, **Hear our Prayer**

God of grace, free us to be people of purpose. Reform apathy into action, bless us with a determination to let go of those things that keep us stagnant; drive us in service to our community, to witness to the gospel of your saving grace. Bless our relationships with love and joy, praying especially today for Thelma Brown and Ann Busch. Also for Church Council and Pastor Kathy & Darcy. Life giving God, **Hear our Prayer**

God of grace, Join our voices with the saints and reformers of every age who have been faithful to your Word. Guide us into all truth, for your Word is truth. Life giving God, **Hear our Prayer**

God of grace, Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Prayer Leader)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Narrator 1 God, the life-giver, the reconciler, is the one who enables and sustains . . .
the one who imagines and creates a future where shalom – wholeness – is enacted and
celebrated.

Narrator 2 The days are surely coming when God's reconciliation with all of creation will be revealed.

Narrator 1 The days are surely coming, so let us live as if they were fulfilled now.

Narrator 2 Let us be free to serve our loving God.

Narrator 1 Let us be free to dwell in the light of Christ.

Narrator 2 Let us be free to follow the way of Jesus, the way of truth and of sacrifice.

Narrator 1 Let us be free to carry the death-defying love of God into the world.
 Narrator 2 Let us be free to welcome the stranger; to love sister, brother, friend, and enemy.

Narrator 1 Let us be free to lay down our lives.
 Narrator 2 Let us be free to hope, to look for that day when all things will be made new.

Narrator 1 Let us be free to live in the power of the Spirit.
 Narrator 2 Let us be free to live so that all of our life is worship to the glory of God.

“Build Us Up, Lord” ELW 670

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
 2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
 lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
 doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
 Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
 bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
 sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain

Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in

faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your

word to spread the news of your Son!

BLESSING

Let us speak together our final blessing, using the words of Martin Luther:

**May God bestow on us God's grace, with blessings rich provide us;
and may the brightness of God's face to life eternal guide us.**

May God, the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, bless us;

Let all the world praise God alone, let solemn awe possess us. Amen! (LBW 335)

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve and glorify the Living Lord.

Thanks be to God! We will!



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