
✠ Reformation Sunday ✠

ORDER OF WORSHIP • OCTOBER 29, 2023 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

✠ OPENING HYMN

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD
LBW #229

✠ INVOCATION

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

All: **Amen.**

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Let us confess our sins to God, who loves us with an unending love, whose presence calms our fears, and whose word brings life.

a time of silence for reflection

WL: Holy God, Source of all life,

All: **we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.**

We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we do not fully believe it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us and free us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

WL: Siblings in Christ,

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to turn us and renew us.

In ✠ Christ, your sins are forgiven.

In Christ, **our** sins are forgiven.

On this very morning we are called, raised up, and empowered
to follow Christ, our Savior.

We will share his death, and, with him, be reborn to life eternal.

Go now and serve our risen Savior with joy!

All: **Amen!**

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Let us pray: God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 58:187

R: Our First Lesson for this Reformation Sunday is from the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah.

“Shout it aloud, do not hold back.
Raise your voice like a trumpet.
Declare to my people their rebellion
and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.
For day after day they seek me out;
they seem eager to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that does what is right
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.
They ask me for just decisions
and seem eager for God to come near them.
‘Why have we fasted,’ they say,
‘and you have not seen it?
Why have we humbled ourselves,
and you have not noticed?’
“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please
and exploit all your workers.
Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,
and in striking each other with wicked fists.
You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.
Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for people to humble themselves?
Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 3:19-28

R: Our Second Lesson is from the third chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ DOXOLOGY PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW
LBW #564

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 8:31-36

WL: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord!

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

WL: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You O Christ!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

PRAISE THE ONE
WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS
tune: NETTLETON

**Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
praise the one who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the Father's word of peace.**

**Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the one who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water, quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done;
let us praise the true Redeemer, praise the one who makes us one.**

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

WL: With the church throughout the ages, let us boldly confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

All: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

PARISH CHOIR

You Are My Refuge and My Strength

by David Ludwig

*Hear my crying. Let my prayers arise before you.
My soul is dying. Who is left that I can turn to?
Feel my sorrow. Feel the hopelessness within me.
For me there's no tomorrow.
Where's a friend to come and help me?*

*You are my refuge and my strength,
A sure and steady help in time of trouble.
You are my refuge and my strength.
You are the rock on whom I stand.*

*Though the mountains tremble all around,
Though they shake the very ground and fall into the sea,
Though it feels for all the world like I'm alone,
Like a friend cannot be found,
I know that cannot be.
For you are always, always here with me.*

*Jesus, you're my rock of ages, you're my fortress.
I will always love you.
Though the world is crumbling all around me.
You are always near.*

*A mighty fortress is our God,
A faithful friend forever.*

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All: **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.**

✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN

O GOD OF MERCY, GOD OF LIGHT
LBW #425

✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: **Amen.**

✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. Gracious God, you have richly provided for our needs. Send us out now, renewed by this feast, and empower us to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: **Amen.**

✠ BLESSING

WL: 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.

All: **Amen.**

✝ SENDING HYMN

GOD'S WORD IS OUR GREAT HERITAGE

LBW #239

✝ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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Liturgy from Lutheran Service Book.

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PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS Text: Rusty Edwards, born 1955
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