

God's Service Sunday, October 27, 2024

Reformation Sunday

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four



WELCOME

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission....Let us take a moment to prepare our hearts and minds to meet Christ in God's Service this morning as we listen to our prelude.

PRELUDE "A Mighty Fortress" arr. by Barr

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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 we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (ELW 504)

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

- 4 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!

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.
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 Savior, 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹ 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. ³² 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. ³³ 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. ³⁴ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our ref-^luge and strength,
a very present^l help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the^l earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths^l of the sea;**
- ³ though its waters^l rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble^l with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-^ly of God,
the holy habitation of^l the Most High.**
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall^l not be shaken;
God shall help it at the^l break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the^l kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth^l melts away. R**
- ⁷ The LORD of^l hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob^l is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works^l of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up-^l on the earth;**
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in^l all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the^l shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that^l I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted^l in the earth.”**
- ¹¹ The LORD of^l hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob^l is our stronghold. **R**

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.

A reading from Romans.

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 being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in 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 show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

SERMON (ELW p. 151)

HYMN OF THE DAY “God, Whose Almighty Word” (ELW 673)

- 1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

- 2 Christ, who once came to bring,
on your redeeming wing,
healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind,
sight where illusions blind;
oh, now to humankind
let there be light.

- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

- 4 Holy and blessed three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might:
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth, far and wide,
let there be light.

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APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 105)

**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 INTERCESSION

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond *especially Shirley, Anna, Kay, Carolyn, Cheryl, Gene, Lars, Darla, Jim, Carol, and these we name now in our hearts and with our voices...(pause for names to be spoken).*

Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, in Christ's resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

We are forever stewards of God's great creation. All that we have, all that we are is from God. As God gives abundantly let us be bold in giving back a portion of the abundance that God has first given us, that we might help mend the world and re-align our hearts with the God who is love.

If you have abundance to share today raise your hand and our ushers will come by to collect. If you are joining us online you may give at landerlutherans.org, or even mail a check to the church. However, you decide to steward and share the abundance of our God – thank you and God bless you.

OFFERING MUSIC “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” arr. by Hebble

SETTING OF THE TABLE “I Come with Joy” (ELW 482)

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

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.

PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
By the witness of your saints
you show us the hope of our calling
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,

that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.
And so, with [name/s and] all the saints,
with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We praise you, all-holy God,
our maker, our lover, our keeper,

for the universe beyond our knowing,
for seas and forests and fields,
for creatures seen and unseen,
for animals both wild and tame,
and for the places we humans call home,
for cities and churches and schools,
We praise you for your covenant people,

for Moses and Miriam and Aaron,
and for centuries of faithful Christians,
for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul,
*for Luther, Melancthon, Muhlenberg, and Fedde,
for Katie Luther and Cranach, Bach and Nicolai,
Nommensen and Kierkegaard,
Bonhoeffer and Hammarskjöld,
for all servants of the Reformation.*

We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ,
who saves us from sin and from evil,
embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free,
who on the night before he died,
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.
And so we remember your Word,
his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection,
his presence in this meal around the world,
and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray, O God, for your Spirit,
your breath, your fire, your wisdom,
your law, your grace, your freedom.
Bless this meal and all those who share it;
inspire your people for service;
continue the reformation of your churches;
and renew the world with your mercy,
with your healing, your justice, and your peace,
with the joy of life in your household.
We praise you, all-holy God,
the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit,
mighty Fortress, victorious Champion, powerful Shield,
today, tomorrow, and forever.
Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Receive who you are; Become what you receive. Come to this table, you who are strong in faith and you who seek building up. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for some time. You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who bids us to meet him here and there is a place set just for you at his table.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC “Amazing Grace” arr. by Hebble

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers *in their homes/in prisons/in hospitals*. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (ELW p. 155)

BLESSING

And now as you go on your way, may Christ go with you.
May he go before you to lead you,
behind you to encourage you,
beside you to befriend you,
above you to watch over you,
and always, always within you to give you his peace.
In the name of the Father, +the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.

SENDING SONG “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” (ELW 779)

- 1 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.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
- 5 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.

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DISMISSAL (ELW p. 155)

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Monday, October 28, 2024

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

Reformation Day

Thursday, October 31, 2024

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

All Saints Day

Friday, November 1, 2024

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

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