

# REFORMATION DAY

Observed: October 25, 2020 – 10 am

## AS WE GATHER

To the consternation of His opponents, Jesus announced that those who abide in His Word know the truth, which sets them free. And the truth, Paul points out in the Epistle, is that God has declared us justified, not guilty under His Law, because of His gracious gift of faith in Christ. That gift frees us from fearing God's righteous wrath; we are confident that the Lord of hosts is with us. Sure of His presence and protection, we need not fear the forces of nature, the conflicts of people and nations, and the wiles of the devil. Rather, in all that we think, say, and do, we are free to respond to the angelic invitation we hear today: "fear God and give Him glory . . . and worship Him who made heaven and earth" (Revelation 14:7).

Today as well we gather to witness and celebrate the confirmation of four of our youth: Ayden Virgin, Nyawurh Chuol, Gai Chuol, and Nyanuer Bol. May the Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless and guide them as they live out their faith.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN** "The Church's One Foundation"

#644

- 1 The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.
  
- 2 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 ev'ry grace endued.

3     Though with a scornful wonder  
      The world sees her oppressed,  
      By schisms rent asunder,  
      By heresies distressed,  
      Yet saints their watch are keeping;  
      Their cry goes up, “How long?”  
      And soon the night of weeping  
      Shall be the morn of song.

4     Through toil and tribulation  
      And tumult of her war  
      She waits the consummation  
      Of peace forevermore  
      Till with the vision glorious  
      Her longing eyes are blest,  
      And the great Church victorious  
      Shall be the Church at rest.

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## INVOCATION

**Pastor:**     In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:**     **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES     *Psalm 46:1a, 2a; Romans 3:23–24a; John 8:31b–32*

**Pastor:**     God is our refuge and strength;

**People:**     **therefore we will not fear.**

**Pastor:**     All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**People:**     **and are justified by His grace as a gift.**

**Pastor:**     If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples,

**People:**     **and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION     *Incorporating Psalm 46:4, 7, 11*

**Pastor:**     Lord of hosts,

**People:**     **hear our confession of sins and grant us Your mercy and forgiveness. We have not trusted in Your promised protection and strength but have looked elsewhere for help and refuge. You alone have provided the remedy for that which truly causes our separation, troubles, and death. For the sake of Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from Your present help. We ask it in the name of Jesus.**

Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. Because that river of grace and power has flowed over us in our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, in spite of our fear, the LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

By grace God has created each of us and everything that exists, and in the person of His Son entered our history and paid for our every sin and sin itself. In Christ's resurrection, God's promises have been made sure. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. The LORD of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!**

### ☩ WORD ☩

**HYMN** "Glory Be To God the Father" #506 v. 1, 2

- 1 Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit:  
Great Jehovah, Three in One!  
Glory, glory  
While eternal ages run!
- 2 Glory be to Him who loved us,  
Washed us from each spot and stain;  
Glory be to Him who bought us,  
Made us kings with Him to reign!  
Glory, glory  
To the Lamb that once was slain!

### **KYRIE**

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord of hosts, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those living in fear because of sudden disaster, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord of creation, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those living in fear because of the evil intentions of people in power, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord of lords, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those living in fear because of evil forces within the Church and oppression beyond it, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Christ, our Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** “Glory Be To God the Father”

#506 v. 3, 4

3 Glory to the King of angels,  
Glory to the Church’s King,  
Glory to the King of nations;  
Heav’n and earth, your praises bring!  
Glory, glory  
To the King of glory sing!

4 Glory, blessing, praise eternal!  
Thus the choir of angels sings;  
Honor, riches, pow’r, dominion!  
Thus its praise creation brings.  
Glory, glory,  
Glory to the King of kings!

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## **SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**      *Revelation 14:6–7* (An angel announces the time for judgment.)

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a*

**Pastor:** Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels that you may tell the next generation

**People:** **that this is God, our God forever and ever.**

**EPISTLE** *Romans 3:19–28* (We need not fear the Law’s accusation; we are justified by grace.)

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Luke 12:32*

**Pastor:** Alleluia. Fear not, little flock,

**People:** **for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 8:31–36* (We are freed from slavery to sin; we are free indeed.)

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

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

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 threatening to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
    They cannot overpower 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.
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, honour, child or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
    They cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

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**SERMON**     “What Are You Here For?”

**CATECHISM**     *Incorporating Psalm 46 and the Apostles' Creed*

Pastor: Our faith is in God the Father, the almighty Creator of all that exists.  
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not  
fear though the earth gives way.

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, who has made me and all creatures. He  
has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and  
all my senses, and still takes care of them. He defends me against all danger and  
guards and protects me from all evil.**

Pastor: Our faith is in God the Son, whose sacrifice on the cross opens to us eternal life in  
God's eternal presence.

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 her; she shall not be moved;

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost  
and condemned person, with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent  
suffering and death. He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

Pastor: Our faith is in God the Holy Spirit, whose gift of faith gives us eternal peace with  
God.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the  
spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, who in the holy Christian Church, the communion  
of saints, daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On  
the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and  
all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**

## RITE OF CONFIRMATION

*(p. 272 Lutheran Service Book)*

*Catechumens:* Nyanuer Bol,  
Nyawurh Chuol  
Gai Chuol  
Ayden Virgin

**HYMN** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#805

1. 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.

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

## **PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

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

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

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

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*



Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER**      *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

**DISTRIBUTION and DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“Amazing Grace”                      #744  
“How Great Thou Art”                #801

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**People: Amen.**

1. Go My children, with My blessing,  
Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with You;  
You are My own.  
In My love's baptismal river  
I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing-  
You are My own.
2. Go, My children, sins forgiven,  
At peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you,  
What I can cure.  
Here you heard My dear Son's story;  
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.  
Go, My children, sins forgiven,  
At peace and pure.
3. Go, My children, fed and nourished,  
Closer to Me.  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
Joyful and free.  
Here My Spirit's power filled you;  
Here His tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, My children, fed and nourished,  
Joyful and free.
4. I the Lord will bless and keep you  
And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you  
And give you peace;  
I the Lord will be your Father,  
Saviour, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep You  
And give you peace.