

# REFORMATION SUNDAY

Faith Lutheran Church

God Is the Potter; We Are the Clay

October 31, 2023

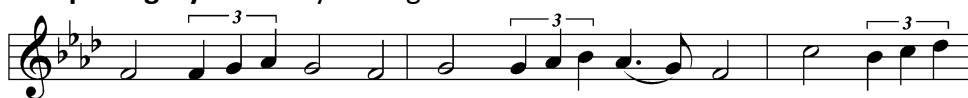


As We Gather: Reformation is a day to remember and celebrate that the Church founded by Jesus Christ is a living entity. Through the centuries, God has shaped the Church and then reshaped it, again and again, so that every generation may experience the Gospel in language it can understand. Throughout these changes, God has preserved His Word and Sacraments. Like the Church, we as individuals are in the process of being shaped by God. We are the clay. God is the potter. And just as He created us and all things, so one day in Christ will we and all things be re-created, and all that is now misshapen or broken will be restored.

## PREPARATION

### The Protestant Reformation Video

#### Opening Hymn Thy Strong Word LSB #578



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy  
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as  
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with  
4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
night and deep as death, Broke the light of  
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we  
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

- 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 May the light which Thou dost send  
 Fill our songs with alleluias,  
 Alleluias without end!

- △ 6 God the Father, light-creator,  
 To Thee laud and honor be.  
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
 Praise be sung eternally.  
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,

Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!

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## Invocation

- P** In the Catechism, we are taught that each day, the child of God rises, makes the sign of the cross in remembrance of his baptism, and rejoices in the life we have in the Triune God. We begin our worship this day in that blessed name—in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## God's Kids Song "Here I Stand", Message and Prayer

### Opening Sentences

*Jeremiah 18:4, 6; Romans 3:20, 26; adapted*

- P** By works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight.
- C** **God is the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**
- P** Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.
- C** **The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.**
- P** As You reshaped the Church at the time of Luther,
- C** **reshape us in this generation, LORD, to love You with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves, all as a joyful response to Your first loving us.**

### Confession and Absolution

*Romans 3:23–24; 2 Corinthians 5:21*

- P** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**C** and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

**P** God calls us to confess our sins. We observe a moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

*A time of silence.*

**P** God, You formed us in the womb, and You shape our lives to love and honor You and our neighbors.

**C** Yet we are by nature sinful and separated from You. We sin against You in thoughts, words, and actions. For the sake of Jesus, who was tempted in every way as we are and yet without sin, we pray for Your forgiveness.

**P** “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” Therefore, by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Thanks be to God. Amen.

## WORD

### Introit

*Psalm 34:1–2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46*

**P** I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O LORD,

**C** and shall not be put to shame.

**P** I will bless the LORD at all times;

**C** His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**P** My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

**C** let the humble hear and be glad.

**P** Come, O children, listen to me;

**C** I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

**P** The LORD redeems the life of His servants;

**C** none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O LORD,

**C** and shall not be put to shame.

**Hymn of Praise** Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word LSB #655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your  
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that  
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.  
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug. Text and tune: Public domain

**Salutation**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day**

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God,

**C** we are the clay, You are the potter.

**P** Form the Church as the place where Your gracious gifts find full expression.

**C** Form us into people who receive Your gracious gifts by faith.

**P** Let Your mercy flow to all who hunger and thirst for righteousness;

**C** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**First Reading** *Revelation 14:6–7* (In a vision, John sees an angel who declares to all peoples and nations, “Fear God and give Him glory.”)

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual**

*Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a*

**P** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised

**C** in the city of our God!

**P** Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,

**C** consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,

**P** that you may tell the next generation

**C** that this is God, our God forever and ever.

**Epistle** *Romans 3:19–28* (“We are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”)

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>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.

<sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Holy Gospel** *John 8:31–36* (Jesus declares that to believe in Him is to be truly free.)

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup>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'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Our Confession of Faith:** Luther's explanation of the Second Article

**C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

**Sermon Hymn**    A Mighty Fortress Is Our God    LSB #657



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat'ning to de -  
4 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 wins sal -  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -  
vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not  
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons





va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to  
 self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of  
 o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle  
 of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He  
 hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's  
 we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's  
 child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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## Sermon “We Are Free Indeed” - John 8:31-36

**Offering and Song** "*Come to the Table*" by Sidewalk Prophets. Sung by Matt and Kayla

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Filled with God’s grace, founded in faith, and nourished by the Word, let us offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their needs. For the Church, that we faithfully use our freedom in the Gospel to love and to serve both God and neighbor. Preserve the Church from discord and strife. Let the world see that we are Yours, O Lord, by our love for one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** For those entrusted to govern our nation, province, and local community: Guide them and help them to care justly and

mercifully for all the people they serve. For the members of our armed forces, for victims of warfare and violence, and for our enemies, we pray that peace may prevail for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Let us pray for those who are suffering due to illness or other problems, [especially for.....] Also, for those we name silently in our hearts. [*Time of silence*]. We pray that their pain and anxiety be relieved according to God's will. For those who mourn the death of loved ones, we pray that God calm their troubled hearts and give them peace to face the days ahead in the confidence that He will never forsake them. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Let us pray for those who visit this congregation, and the students who worship with us, that they may find here a hospitality that bears witness to the kingdom of heaven. For all who travel, we pray that they arrive safely at their destinations. For all the families of this congregation, [especially for.....] Grant that they be havens of peace and places where Christ is proclaimed and lived. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*Additional bids may be added.* Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**P** Let us pray for this holy assembly, that together we use our Gospel freedom responsibly. By the Holy Spirit, grant that we all undergo ongoing reformation of our hearts and minds and in the proper stewardship of our time, talents, and money, continuing to be faithful partners in ministry. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Let us give thanks for those who have gone before us and are with the Lord, especially Martin Luther and all reformers of the Church. Sustain us in this earthly journey so that, trusting in the promises of Jesus, we, too, will know the joy of all those who have died in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Holy God, hear these prayers of Your faithful people. By Your grace, grant us those things You see that we need for the sake of our Redeemer and Lord, Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

#### Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

#### Benediction (Aaronic)

**P** Remembering God's grace to us, and having heard His Word in the Holy Scriptures, we now move forward in faith with God's blessing. May the Lord therefore bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you. May the Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace. ✠

**C** Amen

Closing Hymn The Church's One Foundation LSB #644



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.  
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more  
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;  
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,  
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,  
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.  
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.  
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt. Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76. Text and tune: Public domain

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