



Sunday, October 31, 2021

Reformation Day

Introduction

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.

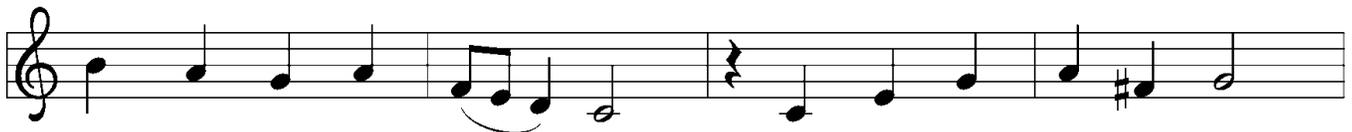
Gathering Song....."A Mighty Fortress is Our God"



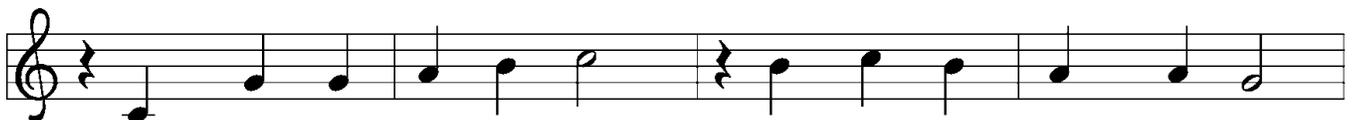
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 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.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther

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Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ✚ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

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.

HERE ENDS THE READING.

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.

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.

HERE ENDS THE READING.

Choir Anthem....."Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

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Gospel: John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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 the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Sermon Song....."In Christ Alone"

1
In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the
No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

3
light, my strength, — my song. This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less Babe. This gift of love and right - eous -
world by dark - ness slain. Then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ — in me. From life's first cry to fi - nal

6
ground, firm through the fierc - est drought — and storm. What heights of
ness scorned by the ones He came — to save. Til on that
day, up from the grave He rose — a - gain! And as He
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of

9
love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease! My Comfort -
cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is - fied; For ev - 'ry
stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me. For I am
hell, no scheme of man can ev - er pluck me from His hand. Til He re -

13
er, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.
His and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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The 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 power of 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

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places. Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit (*especially Joyce, Dawn, Don, Fred, Barbara, Victoria, Christi, Larry, Kristina, Megan & Dominic, Vicki, Joe, Joy, Michelle, Gloria, Sharon, Michael, JJ, Larrie, Ellen, Elijah, Maryann, John & Christine, Darell, Richard, Robin, Henry, Lisa, Ruth, Karen, Ardie, James, Nancy and Gavin*).

Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation. Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.
Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

Offering

Choir Offertory....."What Makes Me Sing?"

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Offering Prayer

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

The Lord's Prayer

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 the Table

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Distribution

At this time take the elements you have with you saying these words:

The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✝ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn....."Grace Alone"



Ev - 'ry prom - ise we can make, ev - 'ry prayer and step of faith,
Ev - 'ry soul we long to reach, ev - 'ry heart we hope to teach,



Ev - 'ry dif - frence we will make is on - ly by His grace. Ev - 'ry moun - tain
Ev - 'ry - where we share His peace is on - ly by His grace. Ev - 'ry lov - ing



we will climb, ev - 'ry ray of hope we shine, Ev - 'ry bless - ing left be - hind
word we say, ev - 'ry tear we wipe a - way, Ev - 'ry sor - row turned to praise



is on - ly by His grace. Grace a - lone which God sup - plies, strength un - known He will pro -
is on - ly by His grace.



vide. Christ in us, our Corn - er - stone, we will go forth in grace a - lone.

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Dismissal

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.