



*Then 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.”*

- John 8:31-32

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday – October 26, 2014

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Matt Claus, Worship Leader

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*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD
Reformation Sunday– October 26, 2014

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! Though we give thanks for the events of the sixteenth-century Reformation that brought renewal to the church of that time, we pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters
These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

PRELUDE: *Two Settings of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" – Michael Praetorius & Naji Hakim*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Sovereign over all the earth,
the Wisdom from on high,
our merciful Judge and Savior.

Amen.

Let us boldly approach the throne of grace, trusting in God's mercy and love.

Generous and faithful God,
**we confess to you all the ways,
known and unknown,
that we reject and undermine your steadfast love.**

**Though you made us your people,
we treat strangers with suspicion.**

**Though you forgave our debts,
we collect without mercy.**

Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others.

**Have mercy on us, O God,
and remember your promise to us,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Amen.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ, God forgives your every debt, your every sin, and gives you a new heart and a new spirit. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG #654: The Church's One Foundation**

***GREETING**

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.

***GLORY TO GOD**



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and
3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we
au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and
la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to
give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,
source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O
sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your
Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and
bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!
lord - ship is our bless - ing.
on us all have mer - cy.
lives are in your keep - ing. A - - - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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 (page 735 in Old Testament)

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.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

1. God is our refuge and our strength,
our ever-present aid,
and therefore, though the earth remove,
we will not be afraid

2. Though hills amid the seas be cast,
though foaming waters roar,
yea, though the mighty billows shake
the mountains on the shore.

3. Where God abides a river flows;
that city will rejoice.
But nations fear and kingdoms shake
before God's thund'ring voice.

4. Since God is in the midst of it,
the city walls shall stand.
Secure and safe with God's sure help,
when trouble is at hand.

From: A New Metrical Psalter

Tune: Winchester Old

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28 (page 154 in New Testament)

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and the 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.

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL HYMN #514: O Word of God Incarnate**

***GOSPEL READING: John 8:31-36** (page 101 in New Testament)

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.

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They 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'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

****HYMN OF THE DAY #517: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word***

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Made alive with God in Christ, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Reforming God, renew the covenant you have made with your people. Write your law on our hearts so that all we say and do proclaims the grace you have shown us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reinvigorate those places that have become desolate and barren through human intervention or natural disaster. Breathe new life into plants, animals, and watersheds. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reconcile the nations to one another. Where long-standing disputes remain, raise up new generations to foster understanding. Bring peace where there is deep-rooted conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Revive those who live under the weight of anxiety, despair, or illness, especially John, Robert, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Carry their burdens, and uplift them by your compassionate Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Redeem your church from self-serving sins. Turn our hearts to people outside our walls, and transform our communities into places where all may find redemption and hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Renew your call on this church as we seek a new pastor. Guide our call committee, bishop, and all those discerning your call in their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Remember your promise of mercy for us, as we remember the witness of your saints, especially hymnwriters Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt. Reunite us with all your holy ones when you come in fullness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

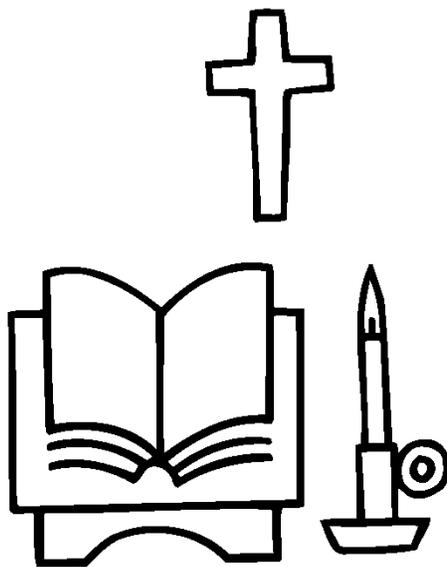
Gather these concerns and all who are in need into your abundant care, O God, remembering your promise of mercy, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.



OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN (All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward)



1. We lim - it not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
2. Who dares to bind to one's own sense the or - a - cles of heaven,
3. O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit, send us in - crease from a - bove;

by no - tions of our day and sect, crude, par - tial, and con - fined.
for all the na - tions, tongues and climes and all the a - ges given?
en - large, ex - pand all liv - ing souls to com - pre - hend Thy love;

No, let a new and bet - ter hope with - in our hearts be stirred:
The u - ni - verse how much un - known! That o - cean un - ex - plored!
and make us all go on to know with no - bler powers con - ferred:

the Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.
the Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.
the Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.

Text: George Rawson, 1807-1889
Music: Traditional English melody

KINGSFOLD

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

***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.

***A PRAYER FOR REFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION**

Gracious and almighty Father, as we celebrate this festival of the Reformation, we give you thanks for those who, in every age, have called your church to be faithful to your Word and Spirit. We know that your heart is grieved by these divisions in your Church, and we ask for your healing that all those who claim the name of Jesus may be one, as you and he are one.

We pray that you give us strength and guidance to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Help us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We pray that you give us courage and faithfulness to strive against injustice and apathy in your Church, including our own.

Help us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

We pray that you forgive us when our own sense of pride furthers division in the Church.

Help us to know that there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, because we are all one in Christ.

Eternal God, you are the One who makes all things new, and you are infinitely greater than we can imagine. Grant us vision to see you at work in our lives, in our community, in our nation, and in our world, and heal our divisions that we may glorify you more fully.

Bring us and all your children to the marriage supper of the Lamb, where we will be gathered into one at the table of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***BLESSING**

The blessing of almighty God,
the Father of glory,
+ Jesus Christ our peace,
and the Spirit of truth,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG #504: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* – Helmut Walcha

About Today's Music

In place of our usual Glory to God this morning, we sing *All Glory Be to God on High*, a metrical setting of the liturgical text. While metrical settings of Biblical texts (especially the psalms) are generally associated with John Calvin and the Reformed tradition, Martin Luther was perhaps the first to adopt them. *Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr*, as the text begins in German, has a tune adapted from a 10th century chant melody. The repeated nature of a sung metrical text (the meter) has long been recognized as a memorization aid, and when combined with a German text, such songs were immediately popular in those churches that followed Luther's teachings. Setting 10 of the communion liturgy found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and the various metrical psalms that we sing each week follow in this tradition.

The three pieces heard as today's preludes and postlude reflect the extent to which the music of the Reformation has spread throughout the Church. All three are based on Luther's metrical setting of Psalm 46, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (*Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott*, in German). The first prelude and postlude are based on the original version of the tune, which has an almost dance-like quality (see Hymn 503); the second prelude is based on the later version of the tune that we sing as today's Sending Song (a version adapted from Luther's original by J. S. Bach).

The first prelude piece is by the German composer Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); Praetorius is perhaps best known now for his harmonization of the Christmas carol *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*. In his "fantasy" on Luther's melody, one hears phrases of the tune repeated and embellished (the full fantasy is, in fact, about twice as long as the selections from it heard this morning).

The second prelude piece is by Naji Hakim (b. 1955), who is currently the organist at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Paris. Hakim, who was born in Lebanon, has studied organ extensively in France, and his setting of *A Mighty Fortress* is typical of that school, with lush and sometimes surprising harmonies. The piece heard this morning is one of 8 variations on the hymn tune, all of which in some way focus on the "streams" in the fourth verse of Psalm 46, upon which Luther based *A Mighty Fortress*.

The postlude, by the German composer Helmut Walcha (1907-1991), treats Luther's tune in a style known as *vorimitation* (literally "imitation before"); in this way, the tune is presented in an almost fugal manner and used as an introduction to itself (in the opening, for instance, the tune is heard first in shorter note values in the left hand, followed by longer note values in the pedal, and then in the right hand).

The flowers this week are given by Sherry & Bob Davidson in honor of their granddaughter Braelynn's eighth birthday on October 31.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Dave Knauff
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector: Sally Foster
Usher:
Attendance Last Week: 50
Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,640.27
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$110,891.31
YTD Actual Expense: \$105,091.85

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster
Communion Assistant: Denise Hager
Acolyte: Madison Cardinal
Lector: Sally Foster
Usher:
Attendance last year: 73
Last Week's Giving: \$ 1,797.00
Year to Date Receipts: \$114,179.50

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