



“...⁹Then Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.’”

Luke 19:9

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday – October 30, 2016

420 Beaver Street

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830

email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Pastor's cell: 412-585-1628

Pastor's email: pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music Ministries

*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. 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.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Reformation Sunday – October 30, 2016

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! 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.

PRELUDE: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* – Jan Zwart

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the only Sovereign, who dwells in light;
Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners;
the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

Amen.

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

God of overflowing grace,

we come to you with repentant hearts.

Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.

Forgive us for passing by the ones in need.

Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures.

Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness.

Bring us home from the wilderness of sin,

and strengthen us to serve you

in all that we do and say;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents.

By the grace of God in † Christ Jesus,

who gave himself up for us all,

your sins are forgiven and you are made free.

Rejoice with the angels and with one another!

We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG #504: *A Mighty Fortress is Our God

***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

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



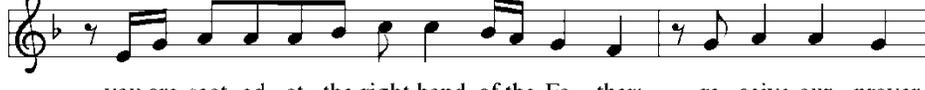
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

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 46



1. God, our help and con - stant re - fuge, ev - er pre - sent in our need:
2. Ho - ly riv - er of God's ci - ty, heal - ing flows with - in your streams,
3. God, the Lord of Hosts, is with us. Come, be - hold these mighty - y deeds:
4. Liv - ing Lord of Hosts, be with us. Come and fill us with your pow'r.



though the earth be ev - er chang - ing, though it fall in - to the sea,
giv - ing strength with - in our cri - sis, firm and stead - y like a beam.
wars are end - ed spears are bro - ken, to God's voice the world takes heed.
You, the hope of all the na - tions, be ex - al - ted in this hour.



rock se - cure, ev - er sure, through all tu - mult you en - dure.
Na - tions rage, wars to wage, yet God's pow'r sus - tains each - age.
Come, O Lord, break the sword. Bring us peace as your re - ward.
God Most High, lest we die, give us hope and hear our cry.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

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 ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL READING: Luke 19:1-10**

Jesus encounters Zacchaeus, a rich man who is also a lost sinner. Moved by Jesus' acceptance of him, Zacchaeus becomes a model of discipleship. In immediate response to being restored to God's people, Zacchaeus ministers to the poor and seeks reconciliation with those whom he has wronged.

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #590: *Salvation unto Us Has Come

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

At 8AM, the service continues with the Profession of Faith on the following page.

***PRESENTATION**

Those making affirmation may gather with the ministers at the font. The presiding minister addresses the assembly with these or similar words.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for this person, one with us in the body of Christ, who is making public affirmation of her baptism.

Those making affirmation are presented by a sponsor or another representative of the congregation:

I present **Victoria Lydon**, who desires to make public affirmation of her baptism.

***REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

Victoria, many years ago you were brought to the font by your parents and through baptism were claimed as a child of God and made a member of His holy Church. At that time you were sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for this sister,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called her to yourself,
enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished her in the community of faith.
Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ.
Amen.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere:

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Revive those who live under the weight of anxiety, despair, or illness, especially Erin, Jim & Davena, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Jane, David & Ellen, and all those we remember aloud or in our hearts.

Carry their burdens, and uplift them by your compassionate Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we remember the witness of your saints, we pray you remember your promise of mercy for us. Reunite us with all your holy ones when you come in fullness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At 8AM, the service continues with the Peace.

***AFFIRMATION**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support this sister and pray for her in her life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing. The blessing is repeated for each person.

Stir up in **Victoria** the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
both now and forever.

Amen.

Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly.

Let us rejoice with this sister in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #665: *Rise, Shine, You People!

All stand for the final refrain as the gifts are brought forward.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
were gathered together to become one bread,
so let your church be gathered together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

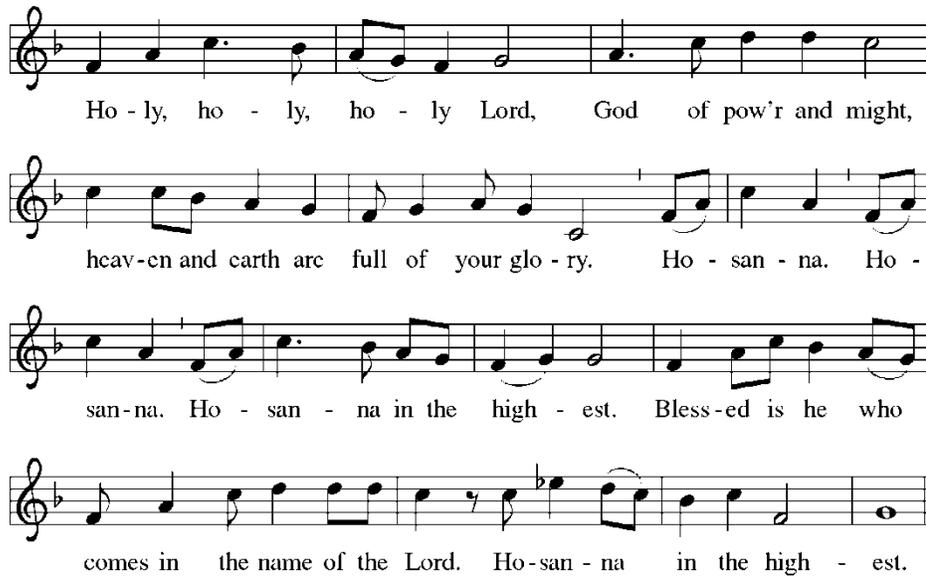
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
 you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
 You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
 and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners
 and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
 his life given for us
 and his rising from the grave,
 we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
 strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
 and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church,
 both now and forever.

Amen.

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

Take hold of the life that really is life.
Come, take your place at the table.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION ANTHEM: *We Limit Not the Truth of God*

For text, see About Today's Music at end of bulletin.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

We come again to you, O God,
giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy
you have embraced us and healed us,
making us one in the body of Christ.

Go with us on our way.

Equip us for every good work,
that we may continue to give you thanks
by embracing others with mercy and healing;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

***SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament
with those who are sick and homebound.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,
and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence
through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

God Almighty send you light and truth
to keep you all the days of your life.

The hand of God protect you;
the holy angels accompany you;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever.

Amen.

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

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* – Johann Pachelbel

About Today's Music

This morning's prelude and postlude are settings of the "battle hymn of the Reformation," *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*. The prelude is from a set of variations on Martin Luther's tune by Jan Zwart (1877-1937), a Dutch organist. This variation (the second in the set) is meditative, using lush harmonies to call us to find comfort in the fact that God *is* a mighty fortress. The postlude is by German composer Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), perhaps most famous for his *Canon in D*. Pachelbel's setting of *A Mighty Fortress* begins with a fugue based on the first phrase of the hymn tune, which leads into a jubilant setting of tune in the pedal, with running accompaniment in the upper voices.

At the offering, the choir sings the text *We Limit Not the Truth of God*, to a traditional English tune. The text was written by George Rawson (1807-1889), an English hymn writer. Rawson modeled the text of this hymn on John Robinson's

“Farewell Sermon” to the pilgrims at Plymouth Colony in July 1620. In that sermon, Robinson said that “he was confident the Lord had more truth and light to break forth out of his holy word.” Robinson used this phrase as part of a criticism of Lutherans and Calvinists of his day for not moving beyond the teachings that Luther and Calvin left them, but he was making an argument that would have been familiar to both of the Reformers: it is easy for us to be told what to believe, but as Christians who claim the heritage of the Reformation, we are called to read and understand – and perhaps even be surprised by – Scripture for ourselves.

We Limit Not the Truth of God
Text by George Rawson

We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
to notions of our day and sect, crude, partial, and confined.
No, let a new and better hope within our heart be stirred;
the Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.

Who dares to bind to one's own sense the oracles of heav'n,
for all the nations, tongues, and climes and all the ages giv'n?
The universe, how much unknown! That ocean unexplored!
The Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.

O Father, Son, and Spirit, send us increase from above;
enlarge, expand all living souls to comprehend thy love;
and make us all go on to know with nobler powers conferred:
the Lord has yet more light and truth to break forth from his word.

The flowers this week are given by **Kim & Reed Richards** in remembrance of their parents, **Whitey & Jo Anne Richards** and **John & Myra Igersheim**.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Dave Knauff
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Todd Niklewicz
Attendance Last 2 Weeks: 97
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,374.14
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$145,087.86
YTD Actual Expense: \$136,649.89

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster
Communion Assistant: Denise Hager
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher:
Attendance Last Year (2 weeks): 157
Last 2 Week's Giving: \$ 3,155.00
YTD Receipts: \$121,059.78

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39383.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

God, Our Help and Constant Refuge – text by Fred R. Anderson; music: MICHAEL, by Herbert Howells. Text ©1986 Fred R. Anderson, from *Singing Psalms of Joy and Praise*; music © 1930, 1977 G. Schirmer, Inc. CCLI License #3219012.