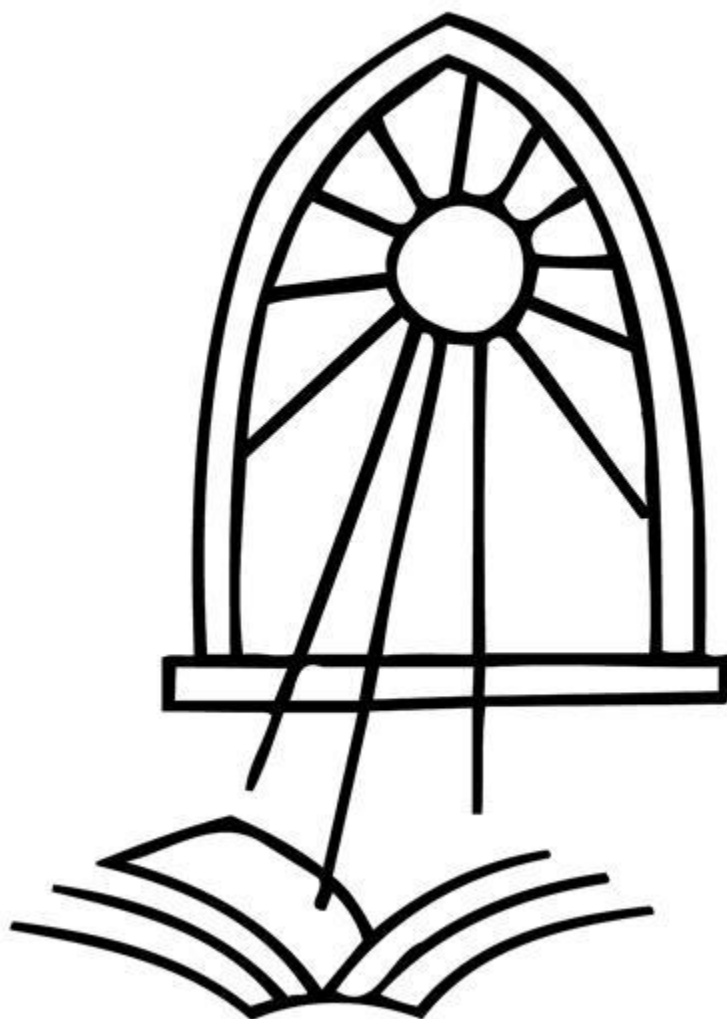




“Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

John 8:31-32

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday – October 26, 2025

420 Beaver St., PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child.

Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

Today we celebrate reformation as we remember the work of Martin Luther in the church. One of the ways Luther wanted to see reform in the church was in the way in which worship happened. Luther wanted the people to understand the liturgy. He wanted them to be taught about the gospel through the worship service.

Worship is fundamental to our Christian identity. We are people gathered around Word and Sacrament and sent to live out God's own mission in the world. In worship, we encounter God's mission to the world, centered in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the living and abiding word of God proclaimed in the scriptures. Jesus is the bread of life present and given in holy communion for the forgiveness and life of the world. So today we will be slowing down our worship liturgy, remembering the way God moves through scripture in our liturgy. Martin Luther's reformation happened over five hundred years ago. But we are still learning, still growing, and still reforming as church, continuously reminding ourselves of God's good news for us in scripture and the ways in which we are called to respond.

Let us now take a moment to quiet our hearts and minds for worship.

In the service of Holy Communion, the Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace—the Word of God and the sacraments. Gathering on Sunday, we remember first day of creation when God made darkness and light. This first day of a new week and a new life is the day that the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the disciples and was made known to them in word and in the breaking of bread. The heart of worship is what God does and what God gives. In the presence of all of us together, in baptism, in the word sung and preached and prayed, in the gift of the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion, we receive the abundant gift of forgiveness and are fed and nourished for our participation in God's mission to the world.

As we gather, music gives us a common identity. A gathering song welcomes us to the mercy of God and moves us from our individual experiences into the communal activity of worship. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20)

Let us "sing to the Lord a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful" (Psalm 149:1)

***GATHERING SONG** *By Grace We Have Been Saved* (ACS 1006)

Refrain



By grace we have been saved— saved by grace through faith,



not be-cause of what we do; it is the gift of God.



1 On the days when you are weak, on the
2 Rest your bod - y, rest your mind, in the
3 You don't need to be a - fraid. You will



days when you are strong, rich or poor,
still - ness you will find you're a love - ly,
nev - er be a - lone. There is mer - cy,



Refrain

young or old, just lis - ten to the song.
pre - cious child, part of the great de - sign.
there is hope, and love will take you home.

We confess our sin and receive God's word of forgiveness, giving thanks that, even when we are dead in our sin, God makes us alive together with Christ (*Ephesians 2:5*). Together we are brought into the presence of God with an honest recognition of the reality of human sin and brokenness and our own sin and brokenness. Together we hear God's promise and declaration of forgiveness.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us pray: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (*1 John 1:8-10*)

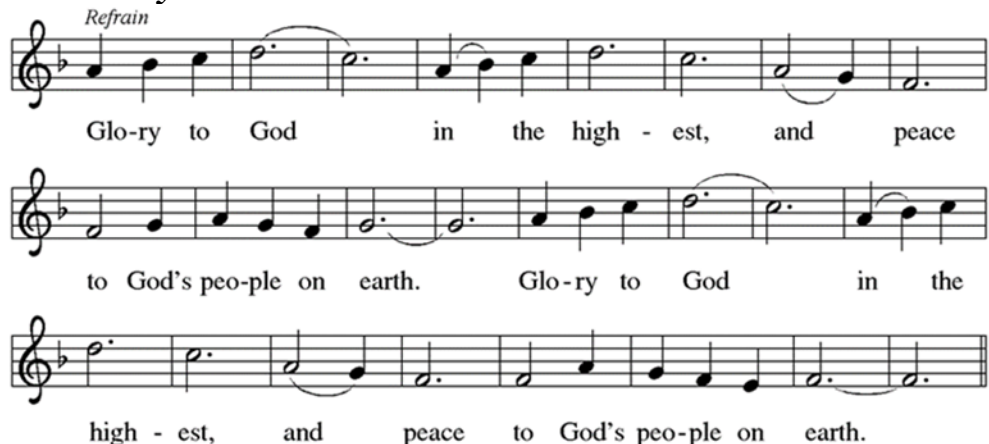
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our sins, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved . . . I pray, that according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.
(*Ephesians 2:4-5; 3:16-17*)
Amen.

In response to God's promise of forgiveness, we sing a song of praise, giving thanks for God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ. After each verse, we return to the refrain, joining with the chorus of angels proclaiming, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors" (Luke 2:14).

*Canticle of Praise *Glory to God*

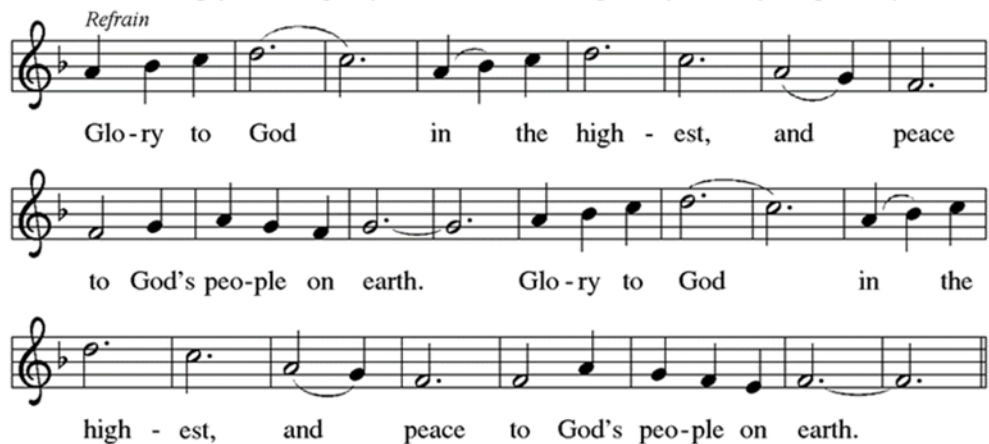
Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 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.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 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.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God, 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.

The Prayer of the Day gives thanks to God through Jesus Christ, prayed in the power of the Holy Spirit. It gathers our praise into one, highlighting themes from the scripture we are about to hear. In scripture reading, preaching, and song, the church hears the good news of God acting in this and every time and place. The first reading is followed by a psalm sung in response to the reading. After the second reading and before proclaiming the Gospel, we join in another sung response. This pattern of “read, sing, read, sing” is a practice Christians inherited from the ancient synagogue worship of the Jewish people. Before the Gospel is read, we stand and acclaim the living Word among us. The Gospel then leads directly to preaching. Luther considered preaching to be the first of two peaks in the worship service. Preaching participates in the creating and transforming word of God, proclaims Jesus Christ crucified and risen, and brings God’s word of law and gospel into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith. The Holy Spirit works through preaching, forming and empowering us to carry out the mission of God in our daily lives.

WORD

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

“Hear the Word of the Lord.” (*Jeremiah 2:4*)

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

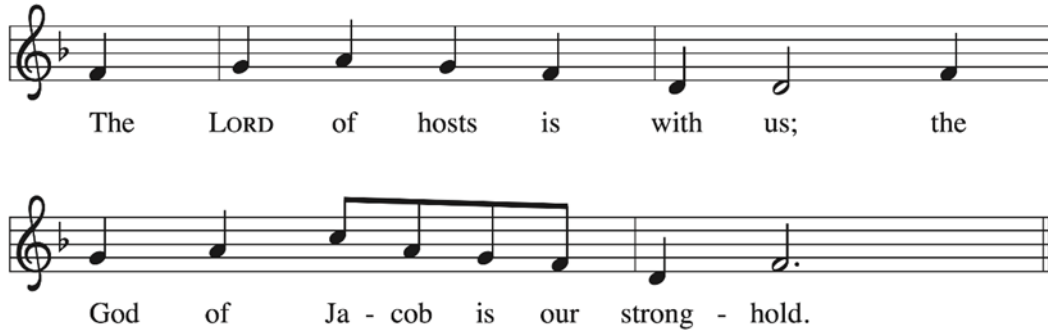
³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was 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

*The psalm is chanted. The refrain is sung once through by all who wish. Then the tone by which the verses are chanted is first played by the music director, who will sing the lightly printed verses. The congregation will chant the verses printed in bold following the same chanted tone as the music director. The vertical line indicates the change in tone. The refrain is sung again by all as indicated with “**R**”.*



- ¹God is our ref-¹uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.
- ²**Therefore we will not fear, though the¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths¹ of the sea;**
- ³though its waters¹ rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble¹ with its tumult.
- ⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-¹y of God,
the holy habitation of¹ the Most High.**
- ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall¹ not be shaken;
God shall help it at the¹ break of day.
- ⁶**The nations rage, and the¹ kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth¹ melts away. R**
- ⁷The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.
- ⁸**Come now, regard the works¹ of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up-¹ on the earth;**
- ⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in¹ all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the¹ shields with fire.
- ¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that¹ I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted¹ in the earth.”**
- ¹¹The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

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: John 8:31-36**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus 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

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” (*Colossians 3:16*)

REFLECTION

God’s word is proclaimed as we confess our faith. We confess the creed as a response to the word and proclamation of the word. A creed is a statement of the faith of the whole church. The Apostles’ Creed is anchored in holy baptism and the declaration of faith we make as we each begin our baptismal journeys. The Nicene Creed explores the wonder of the incarnation, offering a deep and thoughtful approach to the wonder of the mystery of this activity of God the Holy Trinity. Each creed links us to the great cloud of witnesses who have spoken these words for centuries: the saints, our ancestors in faith, and is a confession of the faith we share that unites us with the church around the world and people of every nation (*Revelation 7:9*).

***HYMN OF THE DAY *God Is Here* (ELW 526)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of 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 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.

God's word read and preached, sung and acclaimed, leads the assembly to the Prayers of Intercession. In these prayers, we respond to St. Paul's invitation for supplications, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone as we pray for the wideness of God's mercy to be known throughout the world, for the church, for the well-being of creation, for peace among nations, for the poor and all in need, for local needs and special concerns (*1 Timothy 2:1*). Following the prayers of intercession, the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. This greeting is more than a "good morning." This greeting is the very peace by which Jesus greets his disciples. The peace we share is a sign of God's mission of reconciliation among us and the reconciliation we have with one another in Christ Jesus (*Matthew 5:23-24*). The offering is not the payment of dues or fees, nor is it simply something to pay the bills of the church building. Our gifts of money symbolize, rightly understood, our giving of ourselves to Christ and the cause of the church. We offer ourselves in grateful response, and this giving includes our property, our praise, and our very selves.

We should give in joy and thankfulness for all God has done for us and continues to do. It is important to realize that giving money is only part of what offering should be. God has given much to us- our lives, our bodies, our talents and skills, our homes and families, everything. Therefore, it is also important to offer God more than money. This means giving of our time and talents as well.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence for reflection

God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Mike, those on our prayer list and all who suffer in any way. Be their rest and comfort. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray for young people affirming their baptism. With them, stir in us a desire for your wisdom. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we hear your desire to call upon you in every need. We lift now the prayers on the hearts of this congregation this day (*blue prayer cards are read*). Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

***EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us, greet one another and share the peace of Christ.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).

CHOIR ANTHEM

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *The Word of God Is Source and Seed* (ELW 506) *rise on 3rd verse



1 The Word of God is source and seed; it comes to
2 The Word of God is breath and life; it comes to
3 The Word of God is flesh and grace, who comes to



die and sprout and grow. So make your dark earth
heal and wake and save. So let the Spir - it
sing, to laugh and cry. So dare to be as



wel - come warm; root deep the grain God bent to sow.
touch and mend and rouse your dry bones from their grave.
Je - sus was, who came to live and love and die.



Refrain

Gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no, gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no,
In the Lord let us re - joice, in the Lord let us re - joice,



gau - de - a - mus Do mi - no!
in the Lord let us re - joice!

*OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us and called us your own. In your grace, we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The proclamation of the Word of God and the celebration of the Lord's Supper are connected. Luther called these the two "high points" in the service of Holy Communion. In the Word read and proclaimed, God speaks to us. In the Lord's Supper – a "visible word" of which Luther speaks – God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ. Before the Lord's Supper is shared, we offer thanksgiving for the gifts of creation and redemption. We join our voices with all of creation and sing "Holy, Holy, Holy" (*Isaiah 6:3*). In the meal of Holy Communion, the grace of God's gift for us is always proclaimed in Jesus' own words of command and promise. The prayer of thanksgiving includes praise to God for creation, for God's faithfulness to the people of ancient Israel, for God's revelation in the saving work of Jesus Christ, remembering the crucified and risen Christ, and praying for the Holy Spirit in this meal. The Great Thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts to God in heaven (Lamentations 3:41)

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, 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, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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, mighty, and gracious God:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.
You rescued Israel, your chosen people.
Through the prophets you renewed your promise;
and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,
who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

“The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we lift this bread and cup before you,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:
Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

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

“[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” So he said to them, “When you pray, say: (*Luke 11:1-2a*)

**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**

In Holy Communion, we receive the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (*John 1:29*). We are forgiven and given new life. Like the disciples, we recognize the presence of the risen Christ who is made known in the breaking of the bread (*Luke 24:30*). Christ, who died and rose from the dead, is given to us and we are freed and united with one another in the body of Christ. God nourishes us for mission in the world. We receive the body of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion to live as the body of Christ in the world.

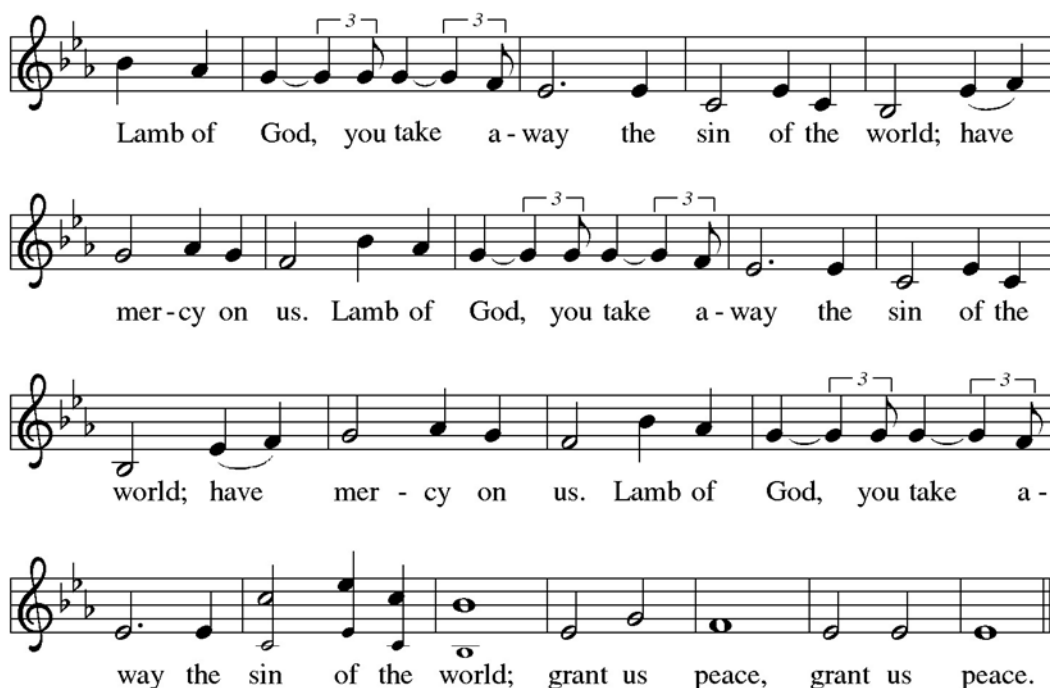
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good, come, for all is now ready.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.
Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.*

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (ELW 779)

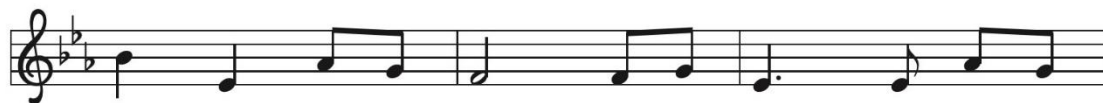


1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to
now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Communion Hymn *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken* (ACS 966)



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



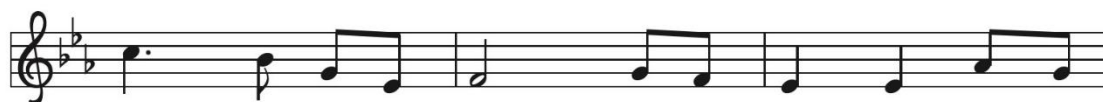
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.
Amen

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The sending brings our worship full circle. We have been gathered, in all our diversity, and shaped into a community, one body in Christ. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ brings forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out into daily baptismal living. We are blessed in the name of God, granting us God's favor and peace. With the blessing of God we go out to live as Christ's body in the world, proclaiming the good news that the kingdom of heaven has come near (*Matthew 10:7*), living in service to others, caring for all in need, and continuing our participation in God's mission— only to be gathered here again around the means of grace, God's Word and sacraments.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. Amen.

(*Number 6:23-26*)

***SENDING SONG *A Mighty fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504)**



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
 your 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!

***DISMISSAL**

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’
 And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’”

Isaiah 6:8

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar today were supplied by Sherry & Bob Davidson in celebration of Braelynn & Brody's birthdays (grandchildren) and in celebration of Bob's birthday and also in celebration of Reformation Sunday.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Keith C

Worship Assistant: Emma N

Acolyte: Cate S

Usher:

Greeters:

Offering: Jules K and Eva K

Notes for the day's texts:

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.

Today's Music

By Grace We Have Been Saved. Text: Jonathan Rundman, b. 1971, Music: Nathan Houge, b. 1977, and Jonathan Rundman. Augsburg Fortress.

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The Word of God Is Source and Seed. Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939, Music: David Hurd, b. 1950. GIA Publications, Inc. / Augsburg Fortress.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound. Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5, Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt. Public Domain.

Loaves Were Broken Words Were Spoken. Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007, Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. GIA Publications, Inc.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God. Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, Music: Martin Luther. GIA Publications, Inc. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

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Next Week's Readings

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 The holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom

Psalms 149 Sing the Lord's praise in the assembly of the faithful

Ephesians 1:11-23 God raised Christ from the dead and made him head over all the church

Luke 6:20-31 Jesus speaks blessings and woes