

*St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Sunday, October 25, 2020, 11:00 am*

*Grand Rapids, MI
Reformation Sunday*

Greeting

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

Faithful God, **have mercy on us.**

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Song: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper frees us from the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe, forsworn to work us woe,
with guile and dreadful might is armed to wage the fight:
on earth there is no equal.**
- 2 If we in our own strength confide, our striving turns to losing;
the righteous one fights by our side, the one of God's own choosing.
You ask who this may be: Christ Jesus, it is he,
the Lord of hosts by name. No other God we claim!
None else can win the battle.**
- 3 Though all the world with devils fill and threaten to devour us,
we tremble not, we trust God's will: they cannot overpower us.
Though Satan rant and rage, in fiercest war engage,
this tyrant's doomed to fail; God's judgement must prevail!
One little word shall triumph.**

**4 God's Word shall stand above the pow'rs, shall end all their thanksgiving.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for God with us is living.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
though all of these be gone, they yet have nothing won.
The kingdom's our forever!**

*Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890, alt.
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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.

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 LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;

God shall help it at the | break of day.
⁶**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R
⁷The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
⁸**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,**
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;**
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”
¹¹The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R

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.

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: John 8:31-36

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

The Gospel according to John chapter 8. **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.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Song: “That Priceless Grace”

- 1 That priceless grace, that priceless grace,
that priceless grace, which gave me life:
Jesus' life is priceless grace.
That priceless grace is life for me.

- 2 That priceless blood, that priceless blood,
that priceless blood was shed for me:
Jesus' blood is priceless grace.
That priceless grace is life for me.

- 3 That painful death, that painful death,
that painful death took sins away:
Jesus' death is priceless grace.
That priceless grace is life for me.

- 4 That precious word, that precious word,
that precious word, which brought me light:
Jesus' word is priceless grace.
That priceless grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949

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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.

Stewardship Message

Song: "Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock"

- 1 Praise, praise! You are my rock.
The wind, the waves are high.
You hold me when the waves are strong.
You hold me lest I die, I die.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.
- 2 Praise, praise! You are my rock.
My desert sand is dry.
You break the rock, a river flows.
You hear me when I cry, I cry.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.
- 3 Praise, praise! You are my rock.
You calm the fear and pain.
One word of faith and I am well,
I rise to praise and walk again.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.
- 5 Praise, praise! You are my rock.
The Easter grave is sealed;
you roll the stone--you, God alone--
then sin and death are healed, are healed.
Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

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Offering Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. **Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, as we wait and long to return to your table. Accept our offerings as a sign of your great love for us, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

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