

Reformation Sunday

October 26, 2025; 9 a.m.



St John's
Lutheran Church

(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk

Dauneen Amundson, Aging and Disability Resource Center

Prelude

(Acolytes light the candles)

Ein Feste Burg by Martin Luther, vs. 1

St. John's Choir

Gathering Hymn *(please stand)*

ELW #641; *All Are Welcome*, vs. 1

- 1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Apostolic 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.

Kyrie

ELW Setting 1, p.98



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



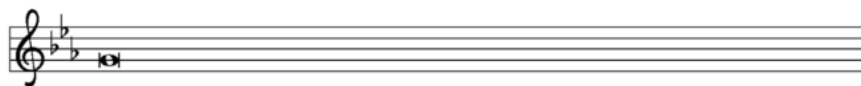
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Canticle of Praise

ELW Setting 1, p.101 This is the Feast; vs. 1, 3

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo-ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion:

Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and strength, and
Bless-ing and hon-or, glo-ry and might be to

Refrain

hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.
God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be-

Refrain

gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

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.

Reading: Psalm 46 *(please sit, read responsively)*

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.**

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 upon 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

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

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Time

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

ELW Setting 1; p. 102

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *(please sit)*

“The Answer is Yes” Pastor Christine Emerson

Hymn of the Day *(please stand)*

ELW #504; *A Mighty Fortress*, vs. 1, 3

1 A mighty fortress is our God,

- a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

Affirmation of Baptism

I ask those who are prepared to Affirm their Baptism to stand.

Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

Siblings in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from the Word God's loving purpose for you and all of creation. You have been nourished at Christ's holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of the devil and all the forces that defy God?
Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

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

Confirmands: “I renounce them”.

I ask that these Siblings in Christ confess their faith: 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 again 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. Amen.

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 Jesus through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? If so, answer each in turn “I will, and I ask God to help me.”

Confirmands: “I will, and I ask God to help me.”

And to this assembly, to publicly witness and encourage these young persons who are affirming their faith today, will you support these Siblings and pray for them in their life in Christ? If so, answer “we will, and we ask God to help us.”

Assembly: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace.

Assembly: Amen.

Laying on of Hands of Confirmands

Dick Freitag (Council President) – Let us pray for **Louise Alt** whose favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

Affirmation Blessing Led by Pastor Christine

Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up within **Louise** the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen

Dick Freitag (Council President) – Let us pray for **Cora Klawitter**, whose favorite Bible verse is Psalm 118:24: “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Affirmation Blessing Led by Pastor Christine

Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up within **Cora** the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen

Dick Freitag (Council President) – Let us pray for **Jean Jirovec** whose favorite Bible verse is Psalm 119:105: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Affirmation Blessing Led by Pastor Christine

Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up within **Jean** the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen

Dick Freitag (Council President) – Let us pray for **Jean Johnson** whose favorite Bible verse is John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

Affirmation Blessing Led by Pastor Christine

Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up within **Jean** the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen

Dick Freitag (Council President) – Let us pray for **Jessica Peuse** whose favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 41:10: do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Affirmation Blessing Led by Pastor Christine

Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up within **Jessica** the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen

Dick Freitag (Council President) – Let us pray for **Nancy Putnam** whose favorite Bible verse is John 8:7: “When they kept on questioning Jesus, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

Affirmation Blessing Led by Pastor Christine

Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up within **Nancy** the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen

Dick Freitag (Council President) – Let us pray for **Pam Sorebo** whose favorite Bible verse is Psalm 121:8: “The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.”

Affirmation Blessing Led by Pastor Christine

Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up within **Pam** the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen

Dick Freitag (Council President) – Let us pray for **Mary Spryer** whose favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 41:1: But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.

Affirmation Blessing Led by Pastor Christine

Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up within **Mary** the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen

Pastor: I ask our Confirmands again to stand.

Let us rejoice with these Siblings in Christ.

Assembly: 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.

Prayers of the People

Petition: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The Peace

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

Offering

(Ushers take up the collection)

Standing Firm Through Christ Alone by Raluca Bojur
Eric Nielsen, baritone

Offertory *(please stand)*

(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)

ELW #185; *Create In Me*

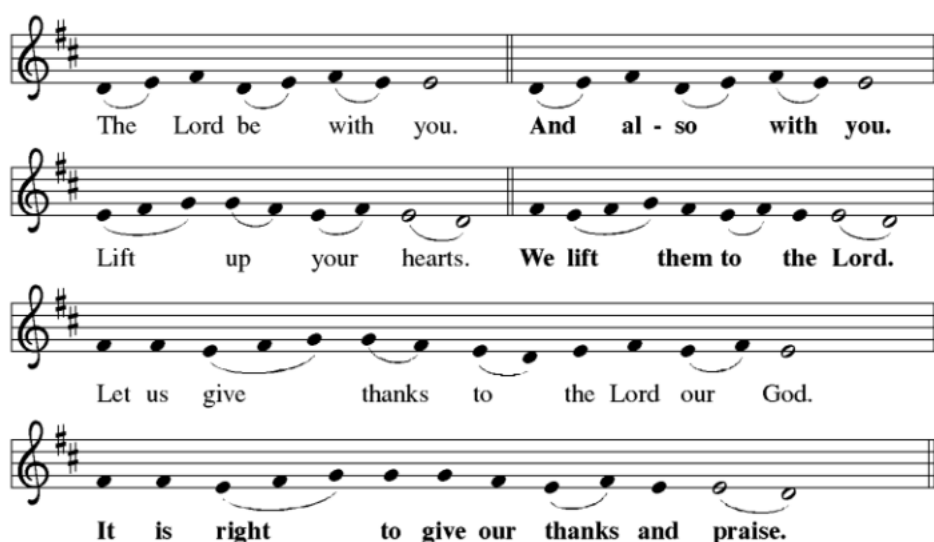
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Blessed are you, **O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

ELW Setting 1; p.107



Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW Setting 1; p.108



Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time

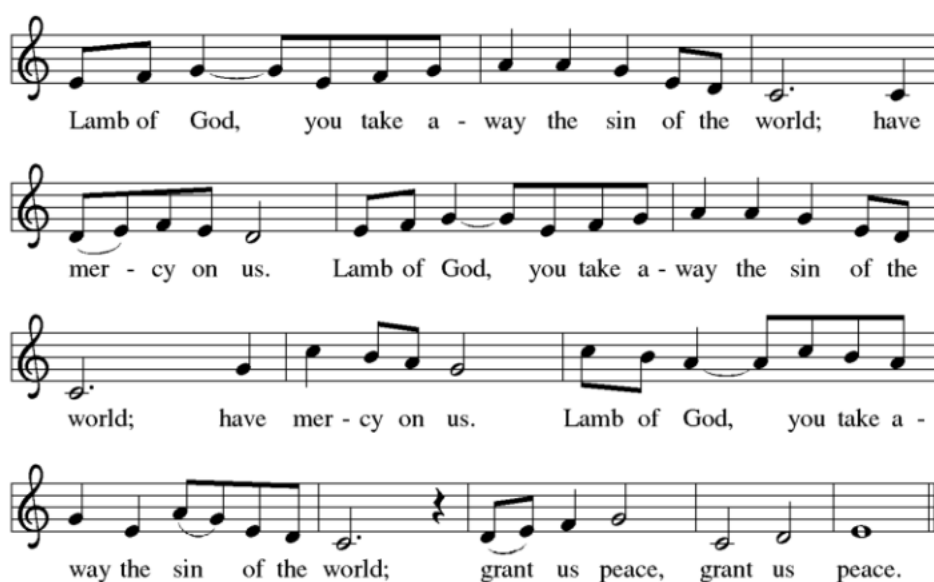
of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

(acolytes prepare for communion distribution; ushers come forward to invite assembly by pew)

Lamb of God

ELW Setting 1; p.112



Communion Hymn

ACS #1034; *When It Seems the Day Will End*

- 1 When it seems the day will end,
and all light gives way to fear,
we will speak your name again
to remind us you are here.

Refrain

New life rising, (New life rising,
ashes falling, (ashes falling,)

joy and weeping, (joy and weeping,
in your calling. (in your calling.)

2 When it seems the day will end,
sinking low under our skin,
we are dead and born again,
and with you now enter in. *Refrain*

3 When it seems the day will end,
and a coldness fills our bones,
we will walk the way you've been,
and our hearts will be your home. *Refrain*

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer *(please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. O God, **through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Benediction

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

(Acolytes extinguish the candles)

ELW #652; *Built on a Rock* vs. 1, 3

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
bells still are chiming and calling—

calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.

- 3 Christ builds a house of living stones:
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face,
he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.

Sending

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Linda Ranney

Altar Flowers

In Memory of Richard Erickson's Birthday by Penny Erickson

Chancel Flowers

In Honor of Adult Confirmation by Pastor Christine

Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Kathy Freitag
Lector	Madeline Lee
Acolytes	Matthew Kording, Braham Gintner
Ushers	Dave Benish, Doug Hayes
Greeters	Penny Erickson, Brian Wagner
Communion Servers	Timothy Lincoln, Ruth Lundblad, Diana Hogenson, Cheryl Stage, Cheryl Mattison
Media & Streaming	Scott Olsen
Screen Operator	Brett Issacson

Musicians

Eric Nielsen, baritone; Linda Ranney, piano/organ;
Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St. John's Choir;

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