



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020 10:30 Service of the Word

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.

-from Sundays and Seasons 2020

Welcome to worship today!

We are worshipping both in-person and online today. Everything you need for worship is included in this bulletin. For those in the sanctuary please remember to fill out the attendance sheet so that contact tracing can be done if necessary.

† GATHERING †

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: 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 the Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: 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 the Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn In Christ There Is No East or West
(For music see Hymn 650 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**
- 2. In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.**
- 3. Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'r your race may be.**

**All children of the living God
and surely kin to me.**

**4. In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.**

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt. Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Henry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Gracious God, we pray for your church throughout the world. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 46 (*Read responsively*)

A: Our sure defense,
our shelter and help in trouble,
God never stands far off.

**C: So we stand unshaken
when solid earth cracks
and volcanoes slide into the sea,**

A: when breakers rage
and mountains tremble in the swell.

**C: The Lord of cosmic power,
Jacob's God, will shield us.**

A: A river delights the city of God,
home of the Holy One Most High.

**C: With God there, the city stands;
God defends it under attack.**

A: Nations rage, empires fall.
God speaks, earth melts.

**C: The Lord of cosmic power,
Jacob's God, will shield us.**

A: Come! See the wonders
God does across the earth;

**C: everywhere stopping wars,
smashing, crushing, burning
all the weapons of war.**

A: An end to your fighting!
Acknowledge me as God,
high over nations, high over earth.

**C: The Lord of cosmic power,
Jacob's God, will shield us.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-26

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (John 8:31-32)

C: Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading John 8:31-36

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a

place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
(For music turn to Hymn 858 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!**
2. **Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning.
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen
All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?**
3. **Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you.
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do
If with his love he befriend you.**
4. **Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
Sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

Response to the Word

A: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

A: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!** *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with messages of Christ's peace.

† PRAYER †

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. These four petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

As we commemorate the Reformation this year, we do so in a time of pandemic. With the ecumenical and global family, we bring our prayers for healing. And we join with our siblings of other communions in joint service to the neighbor, in restraint and vigilance, and in shared witness. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

God of mercy, throughout history your goodness prevails, open the hearts of all people to discover the deep bond of community. Be with us as we share this good news and be with the missionaries we support: the Rev. Matthew Nickloff in Rochester and the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

God, rock and fortress, protect refugees, those without homes or security, all the abandoned children. Help us always to defend human rights and dignity. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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**

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: Nurturing God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Bless you and lead you into the ways of truth and life.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
(For music turn to Hymn 504 in the Red Hymnal)

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.**
2. **No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.**
3. **Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot overpower 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.**

- 4. God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God him-self fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!**

Text and music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



“To tell you the truth, this isn’t what I expected when the dating service promised us a heavenly romance.”

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