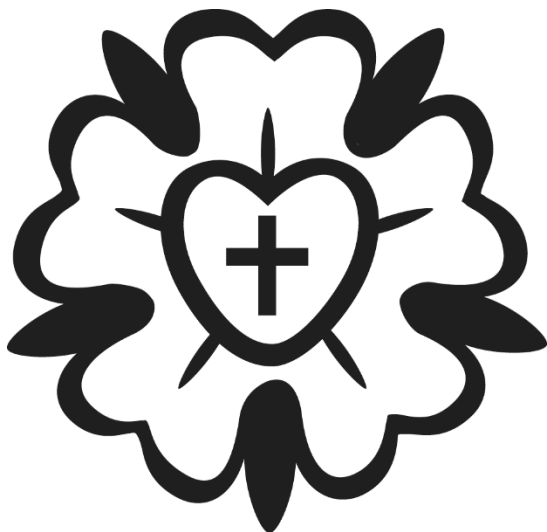




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Reformation Sunday

October 29, 2023

10:30 Holy Communion

In October 1517 Catholic monk and university professor Dr. Martin Luther inadvertently set in motion a series of events that changed the church and the world at large. The church has been in a state of constant re-formation since then. What about our personal lives and priorities? Have they become stagnant? Do they need to be analyzed and possibly reformed? In today's gospel reading we'll see Jesus give us the principles of reforming life; even as that reformation causes major life shifts.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Cry of My Heart
(For music turn to Hymn 10 in the Songbook binder)

Refrain (2x)

**It is the cry of my heart to follow You.
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the days of my life.**

**1. Teach me Your holy ways O Lord,
so I can walk in Your truth.
Teach me Your holy ways O Lord
and make me wholly devoted to you.**

Refrain

**It is the cry of my heart to follow You.
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the days of my life.**

**2. Open my eyes so I can see
the wonderful things that You do.
Open my heart up more and more,
and make it wholly devoted to You.**

Refrain (2x)

**It is the cry of my heart to follow You.
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the days of my life.**

Text and music: Terry Butler; Copyright 1991 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing; CCLI# 844980

Apostles' Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
Jesus who bears the cross,

the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bow before God in humility,

A moment for reflection

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**

We are overwhelmed

by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

**For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation,
forgive us.**

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C: Amen

Hymn of Praise Praise the Lord! O Heavens

(For music see Hymn 823 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, adore him,
praise him, angels, in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before him;
praise him, gleaming stars and light.
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken;
worlds his mighty voice obeyed;
laws which never shall be broken
for their guidance he has made.**

2. **Praise the Lord, for he is gracious;
never shall his promise fail.
God has made his saints victorious;
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim;
heav'n and earth, and all creation,**

laud and magnify his name!

Text: *Foundling Hospital Collection*, London 1796. Music: Frans Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Gracious Father, we pray for the entire church. Fill it with 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 Romans 8:22-27

B: ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 46 (*Read responsively*)

D: 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,
when breakers rage
and mountains tremble in the swell.**

D: The Lord of cosmic power,

Jacob's God, will shield us.

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

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

**C: Nations rage, empires fall.
God speaks, earth melts.**

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

**C: Come! See the wonders
God does across the earth;**

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

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

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

Gospel Acclamation

**C: Alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and
kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading John 15:18-16:4a

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 15th and 16th chapters.

C: Glory to you O Lord.[Jesus continued to speak at the last supper]

¹⁸“If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. ²¹But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵It was to

fulfill the word that is written in their law, ‘They hated me without a cause.’

²⁶”When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹⁶”I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. ²They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. ³And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Son of God, Eternal Savior
(For music see Hymn 655 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead;
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrong, and help our need.**
2. **As you, Lord, have lived for others,
so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty
held in solemn trust will be.**
3. **Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince and peace;**

**hush the storm of strife and passion,
bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
by you silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
stem our selfish greed of gain.**

- 4. Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word may flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race:
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, oh grant our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done.**

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932. Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Rontgen, 1855-1932

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Prayers of the Church

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. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

*The congregation will respond: **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.

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 a sign of Christ's peace.

† MEAL †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord
For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of power, God of plenty,

C: all things belong to you.

**We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.**

**Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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 of Nazareth; 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 church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

641 *All Are Welcome (Red Hymnal)*

640 *Our Father, By Whose Name (Red Hymnal)*

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The God of glory,
Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

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!**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Tom and Carol Urbanic |
| Acolyte | Alyssa Young |
| Altar Care | Mary Zuege |
| Communion Assistants | Gary Boisseau |
| Counters | Michele Myers and Helen Crown |
| Coffee Hour | Pie Sunday |

Worship assistants for next Sunday, November 5

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Greeters and Ushers | Bruce and Connie Stevenson |
| Acolyte | Thomas Bullwinkle |
| Altar Care | Helen Crown |
| Communion Assistants | Rob Stroup |
| Counters | Bruce and Connie Stevenson |
| Coffee Hour | |

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