



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *Reformation Day*

*October 31, 2021*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

Ezekiel was a prophet with a message of major reform to give. At a surface level his audience was in exile away from their homeland. That would certainly require some reforms! There was also a deeper reform needed. This was a reformation of some of their assumptions about God's promises to them. They assumed: (1) they were the chosen people, (2) God had perpetually given them a land grant of Israel, (3) an ancestor of David would always be king, and (4) the temple was God's house forever. Ezekiel challenged these assumptions and helped them find faith for their new reality. We need to challenge our own faith assumptions always so that we keep the door open for God to create faith for the reality of each new day.

### *Welcome to worship today!*

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

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're 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

## 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 the holy Trinity, one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God our comforter:

**C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise* Kyrie Eleison

*“Kyrie Eleison” is Latin for “Lord have mercy.”*

*(For music turn to Hymn 19 in the Songbook binder)*

*Refrain*

**Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.**

**Kyrie Eleison ev’ry day**

1. **For peace in the world, for the health of the church,  
for the unity of all.  
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
2. **That we may live out your impassioned response to the  
hungry and the poor.  
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
3. **For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,  
for friends and family.  
For life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
4. **For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives  
in the water and the Word  
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood  
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***

Prayer of the Day

A: 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 Ezekiel 34:11-16

B: <sup>11</sup>For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

*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,**

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

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

D: 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.**

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

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

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

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

D: 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 Romans 3:19-28

E: [Paul writes] 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. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom 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; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By

what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

*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 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>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’?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So 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!**

Text – Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878; Tune Erneueren Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665

*Apostles' Creed*

**P:** We join in confessing 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 messages of Christ's peace.*

† MEAL †

Special Music

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of abundance,

**C: you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
and manna to rain from the heavens.**

**Accept the gifts you have first given us.**

**Unite them with the offering of our lives**

**to nourish the world you love so dearly;**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.**

### Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. Please come forward to the altar rail. The pastor will give you a wafer. The communion assistant will hold a tray of wine or grape juice (white) or wine. If you need a gluten free option please tell the pastor.*

*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: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

*Blessing*

P: People of God,  
you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.  
The holy Trinity, one God,  
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.**

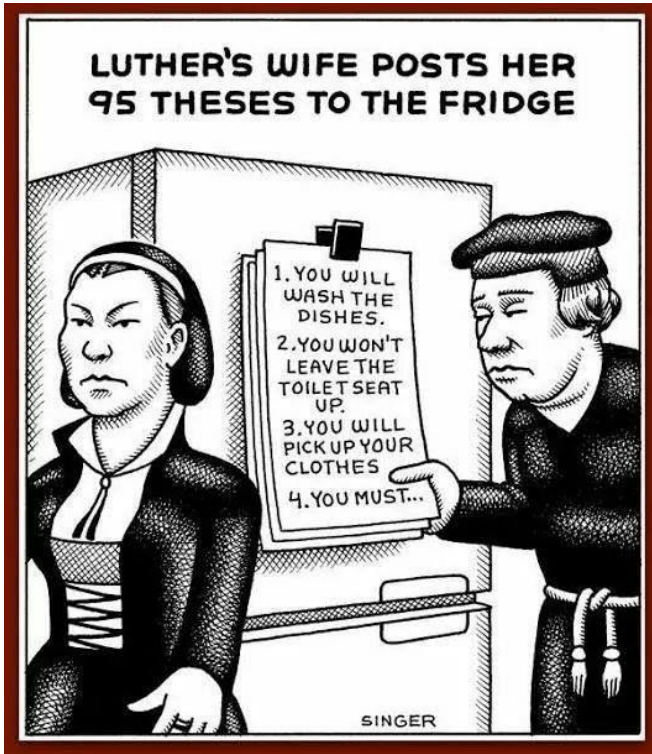
**4. God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God him-self fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!**

Text and music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Text and Music: David Haas, Copyright 1988 GIA Publication Inc.

**Dismissal**

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**



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