

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
October 24 & 25, 2020 – Reformation Sunday

Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace
Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson

OUR VISION

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Thy Word” Fred Bornhoeft

INVOCATION

P: We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

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.

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.

God's Word forever shall abide, / no thanks to foes, who fear it; / for God himself 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: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 (c) 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "This Is the Day"

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Lord of the Dance" Fred Bornhoeft

THE FIRST READING: Romans 3:19-28 Carlyle "Smitty" Smith

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. 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. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 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; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 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'?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, / that saved a wretch like me! / I once was lost, but now am found;
/ was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, / and grace my fears relieved; / how precious did that grace appear
/ the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares / I have already come; / 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, /
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; / his word my hope secures; / he will my shield and portion be / as
long as life endures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807. Public Domain.

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 into hell. 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 INTERCESSION

THE LORD’S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he come to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

LORD’S PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus, you 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.

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

Let us pray,

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less / than Jesus' blood and righteousness; / no merit of my own I claim, / but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; / all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, / I rest on his unchanging grace; / in ev'ry high and stormy gale / my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, / oh, may I then in him be found, / clothed in his righteousness alone, / redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Hymn vocalists: Ken Carnes, Georgette Harper, Phil Nelson, Sue Nelson

Audio & Lighting: Jim Miller

Producer & Editor: Jerry Huston

RUNNING THE RACE

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14