

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

Reformation Sunday



Pentecost 19

October 11, 2020



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

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Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020

SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

We joyfully welcome all who are worshipping with us this morning. This morning we celebrate the themes of the Lutheran Reformation: By Scripture alone, by Faith alone, and by Grace alone. May these insights to understanding God, help us to realize fully the gift of righteousness that God has given us through his Son, Jesus Christ.

COME, HOLY SPIRIT

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

***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.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Jesus calls us to love God with all our hearts..

Men: *All our hearts?*

Women: *More than our families and friends, our homes, our jobs, our cars, our computers, our wealth ... everything?*

More than all of these because when we love God with all our heart, it is that love which influences us and enables us to act lovingly towards not only family and friends - who may be easy to love – but towards others who may not be so easy to love.

And we realize that people matter more than things. Forgive us, O God when we fail to put you first in our lives.

Jesus calls us to love God with all our soul

Men: *Our whole being?*

Women: *More than anyone or anything we invest energy in? Music, sport, art, gardening, - any of our hobbies...?*

More than all of these because when we love God with all our soul, it is God's dynamic love which directs how we use our energy, our interests, our power. Who we are and what we do can then be used to benefit others as well as ourselves.

Forgive us, O God when we fail to put you first in our lives.

Jesus calls us to love God with all our mind.

Men: *Surely not all of our mind.*

Women: *More than our thirst for knowledge, our learning in schools and beyond, the books we read, our advances in information and technology?*

More than all these because when we love God with all our mind, it is God's creative love which then inspires our thoughts and our will so that our wisdom and knowledge are shaped by

God's kingdom values of justice and mercy, love and peace.

Forgive us, O God when we fail to put you first in our lives.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Men: *Forgive us, O God, when we go along with society's concentration on selfish needs over against selfless deeds.*

Women: *Forgive our self-centeredness and enlarge our vision to see all people as neighbors. All of us loved equally by you.*

Merciful God, forgive our weaknesses and strengthen us with your Spirit to love you with all our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Help us to know the peace of your forgiving love.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

Hear the good news: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned. In Jesus Christ, therefore, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

"You Are Mine"

*"I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice,
I claim you as my choice.
Be still and know I am here."*

*"I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me."*

*Refrain "Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."*

*"I am strength for all the despairing,
healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see,
the lame will all run free,
and all will know my name." Refrain*

*"I am the Word that leads all to freedom,
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name,
embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk and live!" Refrain*

✠ **MEAL** ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Please pick up the Communion elements off the table in the narthex if you did not as you entered the sanctuary.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

PREFACE RESPONSE

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

*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. Hosanna in the highest.

SONG OF HUMILITY AND HOPE *“Lamb of God”*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION - *We will consume the elements during the Words of Institution as instructed.*

COMMUNION BLESSING

✠ **WE BAPTIZE AND AFFIRM OUR BAPTISM** ✠

Each confirmand is invited to come forward with their parents and Baptismal sponsors and stand behind them.

These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

Ava Moen, Brynn Rognes

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

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

I renounce them.

***BAPTISMAL (APOSTLES') CREED**

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 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.**

CONFIRMATION PROMISES

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 God's Word and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ
through word and deed,
to serve all people,
following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brother and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (CONFIRMATION)

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these young women 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: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Confirmands individually kneel at the communion rail, with parents and baptismal sponsors standing behind them. Parents, baptismal sponsors, and pastor place their hands on the confirmand's head and shoulders.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in (*confirmand*) the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his/her faith, guide his/her life, empower him/her in his/her serving, give him/her patience in suffering, and bring him/her to everlasting life.

Confirming/Parents/Sponsors: Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

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.

*SHARING THE PEACE

*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.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

***GOSPEL READING**

John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹Jesus 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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

FAITH STATEMENTS

Confirmands

*Each of the confirmands will be sharing their "Faith Statement" that they prepared in preparation of being confirmed this morning.
Ava Moen, Brynn Rognes*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***SONG OF THE DAY** *"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"*

*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

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***SENDING SONG** *"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.*

*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.*

*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
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***THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).

Postlude



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Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020

BEFORE THE TRUTH IS FINISHED

“You will know the truth,” Jesus said, “and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32).

“The truth will set you free,” David Foster Wallace wrote, “but not until it’s finished with you.”

Before the truth is finished with us, it demands that we admit that we are not already free. We are enslaved to sin. This is the part of the truth that Luther called the law: the hard part that points out that we are controlled by our fears and desires, our self-absorption and self-doubt, our addictions and facades.

Here’s the truth: You are not your Sunday best or your Facebook profile. You are broken, and enslaved by your attempts to cover it up. That can be hard to hear, but until it sinks in we are unable to be released and receive the truth of the gospel, the good news of grace.

Today we celebrate Reformation Day, and in the spirit of Martin Luther the church must be always reforming, always pointing beyond itself to God’s grace. The temptation is always there to settle for so little: a cozy collective of our most presentable selves, the right side of social issues, pat answers to incomprehensible mysteries of the universe.

Jesus’ invitation is to bring the mess that we’re in, the mess that we *are*. We are called to show up as our true selves, fears and regrets and doubts and all. God can handle it. The communion of saints—that is, *us*, the people of God—can handle it. You are loved. You are forgiven. You are free.

The truth of God that sets us free first tears us open. Church can and must be a place where we bring our broken-open selves and encounter the healing power of a God who sees us, knows us, loves us as we are, and sets us free.