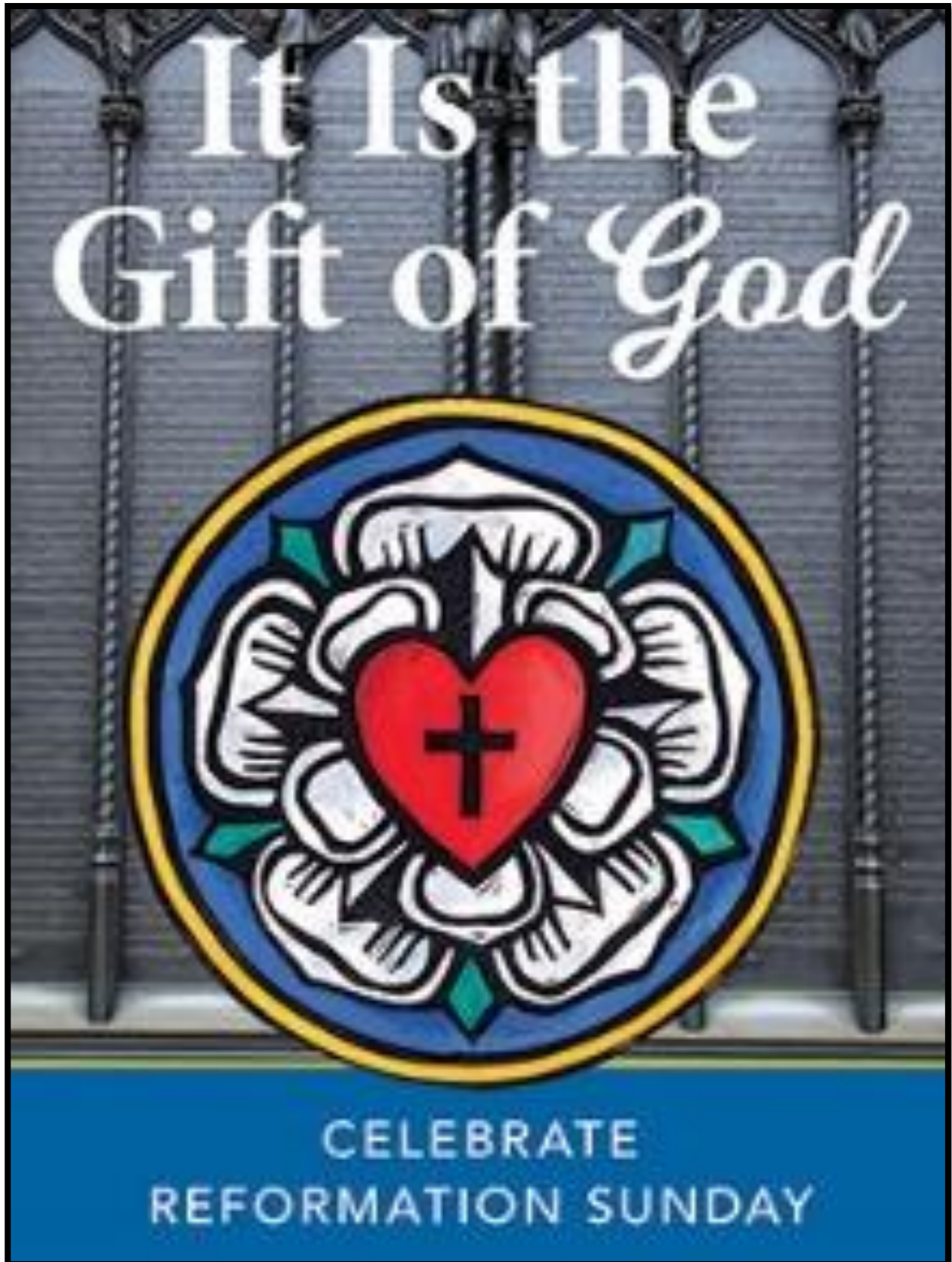


# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



**Reformation Sunday**

**October 29, 2023**



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany     ◆ Immanuel     ◆ Lunder     ◆ Silver Lake     ◆ Winnebago

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Every member of the Parish

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**Reformation Sunday**

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## 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

(\* *Stand as you are able*)

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### ✠ **GATHERING** ✠

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God*

### \***CONFESSION**

**Bold – All; *Italic – Women; Bold Italic - Men***

Lord, you have been our shelter and security

**from generation to generation.**

You breathed creation into being,

**giving shape to mountains**

and form to the world,

**from everlasting to everlasting**

you are God whose grace enriches our lives

**and gives meaning and purpose to everything we do.**

Eternal God, we worship you with hearts full of praise and adoration. You existed before all else and yet, because you are a God of love, you are with us now in Jesus Christ and through the power of your Spirit.

**Our minds find it difficult to grasp the extent of such love and such grace.**

You, who created this world with its diverse and colorful landscapes have shown how, in Jesus, you care even for the landscapes of our hearts, our souls and our minds.

**Gifted with his life, our lives flourish and grow in ways undreamed of, and fear of withering and dying has been taken away.**

May our worship, our witness and the service of our lives reveal the extent of our gratitude for these blessings so lovingly bestowed upon us.

**This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

*Women: All our hearts?*

*Men: More than our families and friends, our homes, our jobs, our cars, our computers, .....?*

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.

*Women:* And we realize that people matter more than things.

**All: 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.

**All: 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 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.

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

Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

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

**Men: *Forgive our self-centeredness and enlarge our vision to see all people as neighbors.***

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 neighbor 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**

*“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

**# 474**

*Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.*

*God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.*

*Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;  
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.*

*Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.*

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### **\*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.**

### **WE BAPTIZE** **Olive Clarence Fritz**

### **PRESENTATION AND PROMISES**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have **Olive Clarence** baptized into Christ?

**Parents/Sponsors: We do.**

Parents, as you bring her to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the Holy Scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

**Parents: We do.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Sponsors: We do.**

People of God, do you promise to support **Olive Clarence** and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**We do.**

### **\*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.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

*Olive Clarence*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain *Olive Clarence* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: 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, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Olive Clarence*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

### **\*CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME**

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word 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.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

<sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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. <sup>34</sup>No 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.**

## **SCRIPTURE 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.*

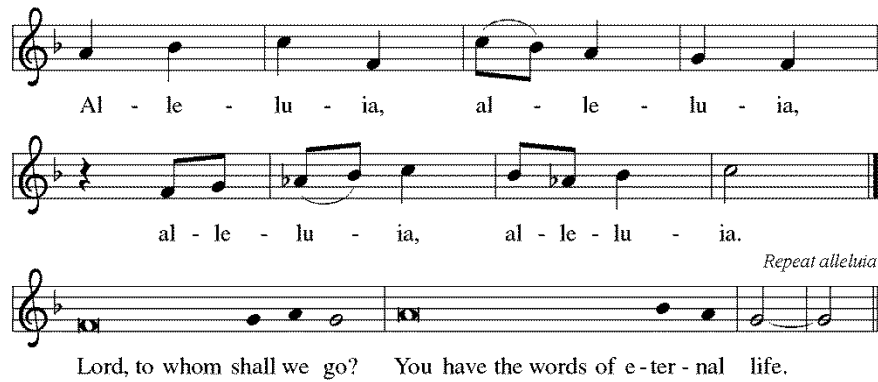
<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law 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.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## \*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.**

<sup>31</sup>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.”

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters



1 “I will come to you in the si - lence,  
 2 “I am hope for all who are hope - less,  
 3 “I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,  
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.  
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the  
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
 am the peace the world can - not give.



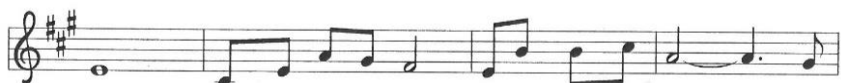
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be  
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.  
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and  
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. To stanza 2  
 Come and rest in me. To refrain  
 all will know my name. To refrain  
 up, now walk and live! To refrain



Refrain  
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



To stanzas 3 and 4  
 love you and you are mine.”

4 “I

**\*PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...God, of grace, hear our prayer.



✠ **MEAL** ✠

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERTORY SONG**

*"Let the Vineyards"*

**ELW # 184**

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

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**DISTRIBUTION**

**\*COMMUNION BLESSING**

✠ **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”*

# 229

*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 overpow'r 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  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude



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Reformation Sunday

October 29, 2023

## the truth that is freeing

Two key words are in today's gospel reading. These words are simple but profound, and not always easy to understand: "truth" and "free."

*Truth* is a word that has become questioned, disputed, and suspect. Many news sources and social media memes promote a distorted truth to try to confuse or mislead others. How do you know which sources to believe? What counts as truth now?

Jesus said that the truth will make you free. Even if we figure out what counts as truth, do we understand what it means to be free? We commonly think of freedom as being free from some obligation or limit others impose on us. We value individual autonomy and don't want anyone else to tell us what to do. While this kind of freedom is important in the civil realm, it is far from the freedom of Jesus.

So how do we put these two seemingly simple but complex words together and understand what Jesus means? In John's gospel, the word "truth" is not abstract; it is the reality of God revealed in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Truth is knowing God through Jesus, and therefore knowing God as sacrificial love. This is the truth that sets us free. If we know God as revealed in Christ, then we know what true freedom is: freedom to love as God loves.

Martin Luther famously captured this truth when he said, in "The Freedom of a Christian" (1520), that Christians are truly free, subject to no one. And at the same time, Christians are servants of others called to love and care for them. This is the freedom we need and long for: freedom within a community of love. Jesus makes it possible for us by setting us free from having to become good enough for God to love us. God's love is the truth of the cross: extravagant, self-giving, and sure. We are truly free to love when we live in the love of God offered by Jesus.