



October 25, 2026

Reformation Sunday

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“A Mighty Fortress”

- ♪ 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!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 657—Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
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Invocation

Forever, O Lord, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

Your faithfulness endures to all generations.

Psalms 119:89–90a

If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8:36

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Lord, You have established the earth, and it stands fast.

All creation is sustained by Your Word and made to serve Your holy purposes.

And yet, we can ignore or defy Your Word and fail to pursue Your purposes.

Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin, and we seek Your freedom.

For our sins of thought, word, and deed, for our action and inaction, for our inborn sinfulness and failures of faith, we beg for mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

I am Yours; save me.

A Time of Silence

Jesus speaks, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples.” The blood of Christ is put forward as our propitiation, that repentant sinners might receive the righteousness of God. As a

called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“This Is the Feast”

~This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

♪ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

Whose blood set us free to be people of God. ~This is the feast...

♪ Power, riches, wisdom and strength,

And honor, blessing, and glory are His. ~This is the feast...

♪ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

~This is the feast...

♪ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ~This is the feast....

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First Reading

Revelation 14:6–7

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“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!
- ♪ The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
- ♪ Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
- ♪ Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.
- ♪ When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 744—Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5):
A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond; Text: Public domain

The Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

John 8:31–36

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

Handbell Choir

The Hymn *Alternate Tune: “Sweet Hour of Prayer”*

“The Tree of Life”

- ♪ The tree of life with ev’ry good In Eden’s holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned Against whose eating God had warned.
- ♪ The stillness of that sacred grove Was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice Eve to beguile And Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed Within the world so newly made.

♪ What mercy God showed to our race, A plan of rescue by His grace:
In sending One from woman's seed, The One to fill our greatest need-
For on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread To crush the ancient serpent's head!

♪ Now from that tree of Jesus' shame Flows life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe, Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood The tree of life with ev'ry good.

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Proclamation of the Word

"That Includes You!"

Romans 3:19–28

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

♪ My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

♪ May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

♪ While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.

♪ When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 702-Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87; Text: Public domain

Postlude