



October 29, 2023

Reformation Sunday

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
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!

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Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand,

And he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD.

Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

Jeremiah 18:4&6

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight,

Since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 3:23-24

Confession and Absolution

God calls us to confess our sins. We observe a moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

A Time of Silence

O God, You formed us in the womb, and You shape our lives to love and honor You and our neighbors.

Yet we are by nature sinful and separated from You. We sin against You in thoughts, words, and actions. For the sake of Jesus, who was tempted in every way as we are and yet without sin, we pray for Your forgiveness.

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” Therefore, we are forgiven of all our sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. 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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The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God, we are the clay, You are the potter. Form Your Church as the place where Your gracious gifts find full expression. Form us into people who receive Your gracious gifts by faith. Let Your mercy flow to all who hunger and thirst for righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Revelation 14:6–7

“Then 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

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

- ♪ Jesus, Lover of my soul, Let me to thy bosom fly While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide. Oh, receive my soul at last!
- ♪ Other refuge have I none; Hangs my helpless soul on Thee. Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me! All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.
- ♪ Wilt Thou not regard my call, Wilt Thou not accept my prayer? Lo, I sink, I faint, I fall;
Lo, on Thee I cast my care; Reach me out Thy gracious hand! While I of Thy strength receive
Hoping against hope, I stand, Dying, and behold, I live!
- ♪ Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find. Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind. Just and holy is Thy name; I am all unrighteousness,
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.
- ♪ Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the Fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee; Spring Thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity.

The Lutheran Hymnal, Hymn 345-Text: Charles Wesley 1707-1788; Tune: Simeon B. Marsh 1798-1875; Public Domain.

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*

The Hymn

“The Church's One Foundation”

- ♪ The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
- ♪ Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev'ry grace endued.
- ♪ Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping, Their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.
- ♪ Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.
- ♪ Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 644-Text: Samuel J. Stone 1839-1900;
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The Skit

“The clay and the Potter”

Hymn of Response

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

- ♪ Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will, While I am waiting, yielded and still.
- ♪ Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now, As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

♪ Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power all power, surely is Thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

♪ Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me!

*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn 371-Text: Adelaide A. Pollard 1862-1934; Tune: George C. Stebbins 1846-1945;
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Monologue

“The Vessel with Grace”

Romans 9:20–24

²⁰But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” ²¹Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? ²²What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— ²⁴even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

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

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Psalm 98:3

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing;

It is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5

Amen.

The Lord bless us and keep us.

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

The Lord look upon us with favor and + give us peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“In Christ Alone”

♪ In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;

This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

♪ In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

♪ There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine— Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

♪ No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath. Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home — Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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Postlude