

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2020
Service of Holy Communion**

PRELUDE**GATHERING****CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Faithful God,

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.

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.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

#504

1. **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 had no equal.**
2. **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.**
3. **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 judgement must prevail!
One little word subdues him.**
4. **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!**

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.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE REFORMATION

Holy God, on this day when we celebrate the 503rd anniversary of the Reformation, we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit

whose light brought new understanding of Christ, the Living Word, and the written Scripture.

We give thanks for the reminder of consistent grace, mercy, and freedom from you through Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for the inspiration of the Spirit which led to the printing press and to modern technologies so that the Gospel might be shared in many languages.

Generous God, we thank you for open hearts that were prepared to hear and receive the good news that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for that continuing grace in our lives and we give thanks for the privilege of sharing Christ with others.

We remember the lives that were lost in the struggle to reform the church on earth: those who were martyred, those who died fighting, those who perished in hiding, and all whose lives were damaged in the struggle.

We remember also the lives that have been lost throughout history in the name of religion and those who die today for daring to believe.

We thank you for the instruction that comes through our Lutheran heritage: the catechisms, the theology of grace through faith, the gift of community, and a deeper appreciation of your gifts of Holy Communion and Holy Baptism.

We thank you for the presence of Jesus Christ – in us, with us, and for us – and for the support of the Holy Spirit, ever re-forming us.

God of stability and change, we thank you that true reformation is always your work and always being done in us out of your love for your whole creation.

Make of us a church and a people being ever re-formed in your image and for the sake of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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. 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. 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. 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.

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of the city;
it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

**The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel, according to John, the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then 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.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

#779

1. **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.**
2. **“Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**
3. **Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**
4. **The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**
5. **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.**

APOSTLE’S CREED

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**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 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.**

**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

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

Petitions end: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*spoken*)

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *"Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue"* #644

1. **Although I speak with angel's tongue, my faith, my knowledge all surpass, but have no love, my gifts are vain as clanging gong or blaring brass.**
2. **For love is patient, love is kind, and never vain with boasting pride; love bears all things, all things endures. All things must end; love will abide.**
3. **For now we peer at darkened glass; our visions end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now see: then we will see love face to face.**
4. **The gifts are many, the body one, and into one are all baptized. Beloved, share one heart, one mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.**

TABLE BLESSING *At the conclusion: Amen*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *At the conclusion: Amen*

SENDING

BENEDICTION *At the conclusion: Amen.*

SENDING SONG *"All Are Welcome"* #641

1. **Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**
2. **Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all god's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**
3. **Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

4. **Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've know. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**
5. **Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE