

# Service of Holy Communion

## October 25, 2020 Reformation Sunday

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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 is kept for reflection.*

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 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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 has 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 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.
- 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!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
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## **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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## THE WORD

### FIRST READING: First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

*The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is lived out as God's people exercise justice and love in their dealings with one another. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

<sup>2</sup>Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor

or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. <sup>16</sup>You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 1**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
 nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
 and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked;  
 they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
 nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
 but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

### **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**

*Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup>but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup>For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, <sup>4</sup>but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; <sup>6</sup>nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, <sup>7</sup>though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup>So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

*Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.*

<sup>34</sup>When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup>and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup>He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

<sup>41</sup>Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: <sup>42</sup>“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” <sup>43</sup>He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

<sup>44</sup>“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

<sup>45</sup>If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” <sup>46</sup>No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Tom Robison

### Here We Stand

It was Martin Luther, some 500+ years ago now, who stood before the authorities of church and state of his time. At risk of his life, Luther said: Here I stand. I can do no other.

I suggest this morning, October 25, 2020, is a time to remind ourselves that we, like Luther, are called to be *reformers*, part of a reforming church, the Lutheran Church.

I'd further suggest that as Luther looked out at the world as he knew it and saw so much that concerned him, he saw that *something had to change*.

I have two concerns that come to my mind this morning and perhaps yours as I look out at our world: one, that these days feel increasingly perilous; and, two, we are so deeply divided from one another in our country.

I believe that this morning you and I can say, with Martin Luther, something must change.

I do not know exactly what those changes should be. So often we as religious people have made the mistake that we think we know what is needed, when in fact the problems we face have been far deeper and more complex than any one person could understand.

But what I do know and understand this morning is the faith to which we are called. That faith speaks to us this morning in words that are clear—words that are at the very heart of our faith journey.

I believe these words are calling *each one of us* to be reformers, to be part of a *renewed* and *renewing* spirit in this world.

I want to start with the words that jumped out at me when I was emailed this morning's bulletin—I'm referring to this morning's Confession of Sins.

You know that when we confess our sins together, openly and publicly and out loud as we do, we are really remembering our baptism—when water was poured over our heads... the sign of the cross made on our foreheads, "\_\_\_\_\_, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit, marked by the cross of Christ forever".

Because we have received this gift of grace through Jesus Christ, we then courageously confess our sins—because we know how unconditionally God loves us, and that Christ's forgiveness is sure.

Listen to some of what we said in our confession of sins this morning:

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.**

And then we ask this of God:

**Make us humble.**

**Cast away our transgressions.**

**Turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

And then what we know God has already done *for* us is once again *declared to* us:

**“God hears the cries of all who call out in need.**

**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.”**

And we respond wholeheartedly: ***Amen.***

Do we understand the *power* that is there for us each time we engage in this confession of sins?

Do we recognize that part of what confession does is to declare that this life of faith is not about some power that we ourselves have to renew this world—but originates in the God who made this world and created each one of us—and each one of our neighbors—in God’s own image?

And that final declaration, “Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God’s work in the world,” is what *repentance* is all about:

We are turned around, led in a new direction, by the Holy Spirit... *freedom...*  
*newness...* to do God’s work in the world.

That is our starting point this morning—nothing less than the *renewing power* of the Holy Spirit through our baptism.

Now if we are reformers, what does Jesus tell us about our task in this morning’s gospel?

It sounds pretty simple, doesn’t it?

36“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” 37He said to him, “**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’** 38This is the greatest and first commandment. 39And a second is like it: **‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’** 40On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The first reading for today from Leviticus begins with our relationship [love for] God: **“You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.”**

Then it lists a number of things to consider in our just relationships with one another and ends with, **“And love your neighbor as yourself.”**

So that the questions we’ve raised this morning about *concern for the future* and the extreme *divisiveness of people* finds some fundamental responses in who we are called to be as the *people of God* and *reformers/renewers* in this world of 2020.

You’ll notice, it doesn’t tell us precisely what to do.

It does not tell us for whom to vote[!]

But these lessons and words of Jesus most surely remind us to focus our faith, our thoughts, our actions, as positively as we can each day on our love for God [and God’s love for us]—and the implications for love of our neighbor.

I was struck, while listening to historian John Meacham’s podcast titled, *It Was Said*—based on significant speeches in American life.

The very first podcast was about Martin Luther King, Jr.’s final speech before he was killed by a sniper on that motel porch in Memphis. Meacham spoke about how young pastor MLK was drawn into the civil rights movement through the incident of Rosa Park’s taking a seat in the front of a bus.

It was after a few initial events—a speech by King, a march that did not go well—that catapulted him into the public eye. King received a threatening phone call of a pledge to kill King and blow up his house.

King recalled his reaction to the threat. As Meacham relates it, King prayed:

**“Lord, I’m down here trying to do what’s right. Lord, I must confess that I am weak now, I am faltering, I am losing my courage.”**

Then, as King recalled it, **“I could hear an inner voice saying to me, Martin Luther, stand up for Righteousness, stand up for Justice, stand up for Truth.**

The voice continued, **And lo, I will be with you always, even unto the end of the world.**



And then, **I heard Jesus saying still to fight on.**

**He promised never to leave me, never to leave me alone.**

*[I can't help but note as a Lutheran that in King's recollection, God calls him Martin Luther and leaves off the King!]*

So you and I are called—in whatever ways present themselves to us in these days and weeks to come—to know the love of God for us, and to love God in return—to love our neighbor as we would wish them to love us.

And, above all, we hear Jesus himself say, that in our hopes and in our fears lies this promise: **I am with you... I will never leave you alone.**

Amen.

### **HYMN OF THE DAY 652 Built on a Rock verses 1-3 & 5**

- 1 Built on a rock the church shall stand,  
even when steeples are falling;  
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
bells still are chiming and calling—  
calling the young and old to rest,  
calling the souls of those distressed,  
longing for life everlasting.
- 2 Surely, in temples made with hands  
God the Most High is not dwelling—  
high in the heav'ns his temple stands,  
all earthly temples excelling.  
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above  
deigns to abide with us in love,  
making our bodies his temple.
- 3 Christ builds a house of living stones:  
we are his own habitation;  
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,  
granting us life and salvation.  
Where two or three will seek his face,  
he in their midst will show his grace,  
blessings upon them bestowing.
- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
many may come to hear your Word,  
who here this promise is bringing:

"I know my own, my own know me;  
you, not the world, my face shall see;  
my peace I leave with you. Amen."

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.  
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## APOSTLES' 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 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 THE PEOPLE

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

*A brief silence.*

In your love, you speak to your church. Give courage and the bond of love to all who gather in your name, that this love turn toward our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your love, you create our earth filled with living things of every kind. Sustain the intricate connections among plants, insects, animals, and organisms we don't even know or recognize. Bless the work of scientists who help us extend neighbor love to the natural world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your love, you guide with justice. Inspire leaders for truthful conversations and wise policies, that decisions are made for the good of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your love, you tenderly care for your children and nurse them to health. Bring relief to all those who need healing, hope, or restoration this day (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your love, you accompany us in life's transitions. We pray for new parents, those grieving a loss, those who are retiring, and those embarking on new ventures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your love, we remember those who were dear to us and now rest in you. We give thanks for Martin Luther and all who seek to reform and renew your church. Give us courage to live out your gospel, revealing your love until our days on earth have ended. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive the thanks and concerns of this worshipping people...

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.**

### **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 praise him, all creatures here below;  
 praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
 praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Please have the bread and wine/juice ready for Holy Communion)*

## 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 FOR SUNDAYS

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n 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.

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come... through all generations you have heard the cries of your people, bringing them from hardship and death into life. You gave Abraham and Sarah a child in their old age; you brought Israel out of slavery into the freedom of the Promised Land; you sent judges, kings, and prophets to rule your people and return them to you when they had strayed. And when

the time had come, you sent your Son Jesus to be our brother, our teacher, and our Savior. We remember, that...

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

### **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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

Take the bread and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you. *(please consume the bread)*

Take the cup and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you. *(please drink from the cup)*

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,

guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There is a Huth Prayer Garden service this Tuesday, October 27, from 4:30 to 5pm. Meet us under the trees – please bring your own chair and wear a facemask. You will be asked to social distance.

The budget committee meets this Thursday, October 29, 4:30 at the church.

Build your Ofrenda for next Sunday, All Saints Sunday – Nov. 1. Take a picture and send it to Courtney at church office via email.

We are looking for folks to write up an Advent or Christmas memory to share in the December Newsletter. Those, and the pictures of your ofrendas, need to be sent to Courtney no later than Monday, November 9.

## **BLESSING**

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN 645 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation**

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ, our head and cornerstone,  
chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever  
and our confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple, where we call you,  
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;  
come, with all your lovingkindness,  
hear your people as they pray;  
and your fullest benediction  
shed within these walls today.
- 3 Here bestow on all your servants  
what they seek from you to gain;  
what they gain from you, forever  
with the blessed to retain;  
and hereafter in your glory  
evermore with you to reign.

4 Praise and honor to the Father,  
praise and honor to the Son,  
praise and honor to the Spirit,  
ever three and ever one:  
one in might and one in glory  
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go about your day in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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