

# Reformation Sunday (Observed)

October 25, 2020 | 9:45 am | Ascension Lutheran Church



## Words of Welcome

### Opening Sentences

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** God has always promised to save His people purely by His grace. David sang of his reliance on God's protection in Psalm 46, and Martin Luther set the psalm to the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress." Let us begin our worship by using both of them to praise God for His mighty deliverance through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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

**P** God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;  
**C God will help her when morning dawns.**

**P** "Be still, and know that I am God.  
**C I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted on the earth!"**

**P** The LORD of hosts is with us;  
**C the God of Jacob is our fortress.** (Psalm 46:1, 4-5, 10-11)

### Opening Hymn

LSB 657 | "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -  
to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -  
va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to  
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of  
work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He  
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's  
arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.

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## Confession and Forgiveness

**P** God has defended His people from the assaults of the enemy throughout history. We have professed our faith, our trust, in His rescue from evils within time and for eternity. Yet in our individual lives and even as His Church today, we must confess that our thoughts, words, and actions have not matched our valiant professions of faith. Let us therefore confess our sins to God our heavenly Father.

**A** *Most gracious God, we confess that we have not relied on You as the mighty fortress that You are. When the old satanic foe seems near, when we recognize hordes of his cohorts, we tremble. When the earth gives way beneath our feet or our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse are in jeopardy, we fear the worst. Forgive and strengthen us, heavenly Father, that we may stand with Your Son, here in time and forever with You in eternity. Amen.*

**P** God knows what you can bear. He does not willingly allow evil in the world. He has sent His Son to take the punishment for us all. Although skirmishes may continue, the battle has been won. 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.

**C Amen. The God of Jacob is our fortress!**

### Response Verse

LSB 657 | "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who  
fear it; For God Him-self fights by our side With weap-ons  
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,  
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They  
can - not win the day. The King-dom's ours for - ev - er!

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### Prayer of the Day

**P** 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.

**C Amen.**

### First Reading | Revelation 14:6-7

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying in the middle of the sky. He had the everlasting gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth, to every nation, tribe, language, and people. <sup>7</sup>He said with a loud voice: Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship Him who made the sky, the earth, the sea, and the springs of water.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading | Romans 3:19-28

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God’s judgment. <sup>20</sup>For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in His sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. <sup>22</sup>This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe. In fact, there is no difference, <sup>23</sup>because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God <sup>24</sup>and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in His blood. God did this to demonstrate His justice, since, in His divine restraint, He had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. <sup>26</sup>He did this to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so that He would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup>What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**Holy Gospel** | John 8:31-36

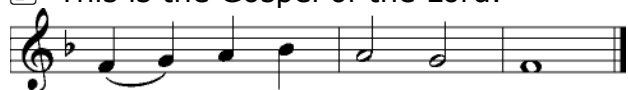
**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.



**G** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you remain in My word, you are really My disciples. <sup>32</sup>You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup>“We are Abraham’s descendants,” they answered, “and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be set free?’” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**Hymn of the Day**

LSB 566 | “By Grace I’m Saved”



1 By grace I’m saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and  
3 By grace God’s Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?  
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it



Has Scrip-ture ev - er false-hood taught? No! Then this word must  
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.  
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav’n - ly throne.

## Message

### Response Verse

LSB 566 | “By Grace I’m Saved”

4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is  
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,  
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our  
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

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### Prayers of the Church

- P** Lord God, while we travel as pilgrims here on earth, give us comfort in the knowledge that You have called us to be Your disciples through water and the Word. In the midst of difficult times, when waters roar and foam and mountains tremble, give us confidence in knowing that we have been set free by the Son, and so we are free indeed! The LORD of hosts is with us;
- C** **the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
- P** Lord God, as Your children, we are called to love You, our neighbor, and even our enemy. Give us willing hearts to love our neighbor as ourselves because You first loved us. The LORD of hosts is with us;
- C** **the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
- P** Lord God, You are greater than the one who is in the world, prowling and seeking to devour us. Deliver us from the old evil foe, knowing that he cannot harm us because he has been defeated by Your Son’s death and resurrection. Give us strength to resist Satan, and keep us firm in the faith You have given us. The LORD of hosts is with us;
- C** **the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
- P** Lord God, Your Son bought us with His lifeblood as the price. In Him, we are set free from sin, death, and the power of the devil. By Your Holy Spirit working through Your Word, preserve us in the one true faith, that we might abide in You until You bring us to the place You have prepared for us in Your house. The LORD of hosts is with us;
- C** **the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

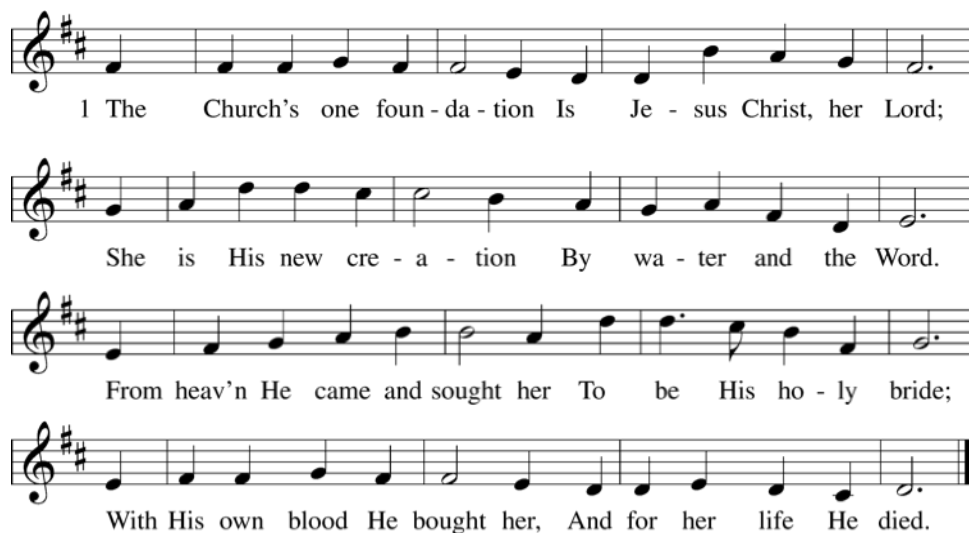
(Special petitions are offered here.)

- P** Lord God, into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, confident that for the sake of Jesus, You hear and answer. Lord, have mercy!
- C** **Amen.**

## ✠ Rite of Confirmation ✠

### Confirmation Hymn

LSB 644 | “The Church’s One Foundation”



I The Church's one foun-da-tion Is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;  
 She is His new cre-a-tion By wa-ter and the Word.  
 From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho-ly bride;  
 With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

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## Declaration of Faith

Bella Montgomery | "Jesus Is My Best Friend"

### Commitment of the Confirmand

- P** Beloved in the Lord, our Savior, Jesus, said, "Whoever publicly acknowledges Me I will also acknowledge before My Father in heaven. But whoever publicly disowns Me I will disown before My Father in heaven." Do you, this day, in the presence of God—who chose you to be His own—and of this congregation, affirm the faith which our Triune God gave you at your Baptism?
- R I do publicly make this affirmation of faith.**
- P** Do you renounce Satan, all his works and all his ways?
- R Yes, I do renounce them.**
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?
- R Yes, I believe in God the Father, Creator of all that exists.**
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?
- R Yes, I believe in Jesus, God's Son, as my personal Savior.**
- P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgive-ness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?
- R Yes, I believe in God the Holy Spirit who confirms me in this faith, and draws me into fellowship with other Christians.**
- P** Do you desire to remain strong and committed to this faith, to be bold in your witness of Christ, and to serve as His representative to your friends and family?
- R Yes, I do.**
- P** Do you affirm that the writings of the Old and New Testaments are God's inspired Word to us and are our only basis for doctrine and teaching?
- R Yes, I do.**
- P** And do you further affirm that the teachings of the Lutheran Church, as you have come to learn them from the Small Catechism, are accurate understandings of that precious Word of God?
- R Yes, I do.**

**P** Is it then, your desire and intention, as a member of Ascension Lutheran Church, that you conform your life to God and His direction; remain steadfast in your use of His Word and Sacraments, which are His means of grace; and, in faith, word, and action, remain faithful to God—Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit—until death?

**R** **Yes! I do so intend, with the help of God.**

### Commitment of the Confirmand's Parent

**P** You have heard the commitment of your child. Such a promise needs your continued guidance, support, and prayer. Therefore, I ask you, will you continue to direct, support, and encourage Bella by word, deed, and example?

**R** **Yes, with the help of God.**

### Commitment of the Congregation

**P** As His people, God has also placed this young sister in Christ into your hands for spiritual guidance. You have the responsibility to lift her up in your prayers, to remind her of the covenant that God made with her at her Baptism, and to help train her according to God's Word. Do you commit yourselves, this day, to this God-given responsibility, gladly and willingly?

**C** **Yes. May God strengthen us to be true to our promises for the eternal welfare of this child and to His glory.**

### Blessing of the Confirmand

**P** Annabella Olivia Montgomery, God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

**P** Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united all Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in Annabella the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that she may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith that ever clings to her Savior. Deliver her from the power of Satan and preserve her from false and dangerous doctrines, that she may remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood. By the Lord's Supper strengthen her to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone. Enable her to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and her neighbor and to bear her cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of her body to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Peace † be with you.

**C** **Amen.**

### Confirmation Hymn

LSB 644 | "The Church's One Foundation"

2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,



And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.

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## ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, LORD of hosts, Creator of all, for in Your foresight and compassion You promised to send Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to bear our sins and be our Savior. With Your Holy Spirit's gift of faith, we rely on Your presence always and rejoice to receive Your Son as He comes to us in this blessed Sacrament. Strengthen us thereby that we continue in confident faith, fearing not world, Satan, or sinful flesh. Grant us the assurance that You are both with us and for us each day so that we freely serve You until we see You face-to-face in eternity. To You, heavenly Father, be all glory with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G Amen.**

### Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Lord's Prayer

**P** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**A** *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.*

### Distribution Hymns

"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 babel  
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!

**Keith Getty I Stuart Townend**

LSB 680 | "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -  
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the  
3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the  
4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the  
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head  
prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree  
ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee  
won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise  
dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the  
Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the  
Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the  
Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the  
rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the  
sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the  
sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the  
ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the





vine-yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
 liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.  
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

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LSB 737 | "Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad"



1 Re - joice, my heart, be glad and sing, A  
 2 He is your trea - sure, He your joy, Your  
 3 Why spend the day in blank de - spair, In  
 4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard  
 5 He on - ly will with pa - tience chide, His



cheer - ful trust main - tain; For God, the source of  
 life and light and Lord, Your coun - sel - or when  
 rest - less thought the night? On your Cre - a - tor  
 ev - 'ry child - hood day? And did He not in  
 rod falls gent - ly down; And all your sins He



ev - 'ry - thing, Your por - tion shall re - main.  
 doubts an - noy, Your shield and great re - ward.  
 cast your care; He makes your bur - dens light.  
 threat - ning hour Turn dread - ed ills a - way?  
 casts a - side In o - cean depths to drown.

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**Dismissal**

☞ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

☞ **Amen.**

**Benediction**

☞ Remembering God's grace to us, and having heard His Word in the Holy Scriptures, we now move forward in faith with God's blessing. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

☞ **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

LSB 582 | "God's Word is Our Great Heritage"

1 God's Word is our great heritage  
 And shall be ours forever;  
 To spread its light from age to age  
 Shall be our chief endeavor.  
 Through life it guides our way,  
 In death it is our stay.  
 Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
 We keep its teachings pure  
 Throughout all generations.

## Sending

**P** Go forth in the peace of Christ as you serve the LORD of hosts!

**G** **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude