



14175 Farmington Road — Livonia MI 48154 — 734.522.6830
www.christoursavior.org — info@christoursavior.org

Rev. Dean M. Davenport, Senior Pastor
Rev. Joel A. Werner, Associate Pastor

Reformation Day Worship

Sunday, October 26, 2025 – 3:00pm

AS WE GATHER

We are blessed with many freedoms in this country. We have freedom of speech. We have freedom of religion, with the freedom to assemble. We live in the "land of the free and the home of the brave." It is easy to rely on our citizenship for proof of our freedom. In that way, we are like the Jewish people at the time of Jesus. They relied on their Abrahamic lineage for freedom, recalling the covenant God made with Abraham and his descendants. While these national freedoms are great blessings, in the Holy Gospel, Jesus points out that for true freedom, one must be free from slavery to sin. Only in Christ is anyone truly free.

Order of Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Praise to the Lord, The Almighty"

arr. Kevin McChesney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ Preparation ✠

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation"

LSB 644

Introduction: Brass & Organ

- 1. 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.**

Interlude: Brass

2. 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.

Interlude: Brass

3. 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.

Interlude: Brass

4. 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.

Interlude: Brass & Organ

5. Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11

- P** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
P "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Isaiah 35:10

- P** Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.
- C** **Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.** *continued*
- P** The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ Service of the Word ✠

KYRIE

LSB 168

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



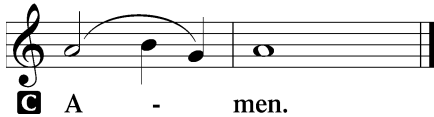
C Lord, have mer - cy.

- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



HYMN OF PRAISE

"All Glory Be to God on High"

LSB 947

All: 1. All glory be to God on high And thanks for all His favor;
No harm can touch or terrify A child of God forever.
God shows His good and gracious will And grants His peace, the world to fill
All strife at last has ended.

Women: 2. *We praise and laud and worship You; We give You thanks forever,
O Father, for Your rule is true And just and changes never.
With boundless pow'r, Your mighty reign Fulfills whatever You ordain.
Lord, grant us ev'ry blessing!*

Men: 3. *O Jesus Christ, the only Son Begotten of the Father,
Your saving death has made us one With God and with each other.
O Lamb of God, to You on high In our distress we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, amen!*

All: 4. O Holy Spirit, our delight And source of consolation,
Protect us from the devil's might Through Jesus, our salvation,
Who by His death upon a tree Has rescued us from misery:
To this we hold forever.

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SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God of glory, we worship You who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water. We worship You who freely forgives us through the propitiation of Jesus' blood, which justifies us freely by Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

C Amen.

FIRST READING *(Another angel proclaims an eternal Gospel message.)* 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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ANTHEM "Praise the Lord" *G.F. Handel*

Praise the Lord, let songs of joy break forth. Shout, sing alleluia. Praise His name forevermore!

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PSALM *Psalm 46*

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

G **Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

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

G **God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;**

P God will help her when morning dawns.

G **The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;**

P He utters His voice, the earth melts.

G **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

P Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth.

G **He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.**

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

G **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

EPISTLE *(God grants the gift of redemption through Jesus Christ.)* 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

arr. Douglas Wagner

REFORMATION SUMMARY

P One of the most famous documents of the Reformation Era is the set of the Ninety-Five Theses posted on the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517. In this set of ninety-five statements that Dr. Luther wished to have debated was a challenge to accepted practices in the church of his time that Luther felt were at odds with the biblical witness and therefore were not true. His introduction to the set of statements he had written is highlighted by two words: "love" and "truth." We now hear what Luther wrote as the introduction to his now famous Ninety-Five Theses.

L "Out of love for the truth and the desire to bring it to light, the following propositions will be debated at Wittenberg, under presidency of the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and of Sacred Theology, and the Lecturer on Ordinary on the same at that place. For that reason, he requests that those who cannot be present and debate orally with us may do so by letter."

P The challenges to Luther that resulted from his posting of the Ninety-Five Theses remained a constant factor throughout his life. A few years before his death, he wrote the words to the stirring hymn "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word." Both the text and the tune are attributed to the great reformer.

HYMN

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB 655

- 1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.**

- P** A major focus of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses was his concerns about the marketing of indulgences or letters of pardon for sins committed that were sold by traveling salesmen sent out by the church to raise funds for cathedral construction and other church projects. This money-raising strategy turned the forgiveness God gives freely through Jesus Christ into a commodity that could be purchased for the right price. Indulgences were readily available to wealthy people but not to the masses of common people—the kind of people that Luther knew well and preached to week by week. In Theses 36 and 37, he rightly asserts that God's forgiveness is equally available to all who repent.
- L** "Every truly repentant Christian has plenary [full] remission of penalty and guilt, even without letters of pardon. Every true Christian, whether living or dead, has a part in all the benefits of Christ and the church, given him by God, even without letters of pardon."
- P** Luther's love for the truth and his desire to bring it to light led to dark times for those who saw the light of the Gospel in the writings of the great reformer. In the second stanza of "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," Luther prays that God would defend and protect the church and its people. His prayer in his day is our prayer today as well.

HYMN

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB 655

2. Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are Lord of lords alone; Defend Your holy Church that we May sing Your praise eternally.

- P** In the final two of the Ninety-Five Theses, Martin Luther gave an indication that he was well aware of the pathway that Christians would be taking as they followed the truth of the Gospel. No matter how contentious and challenging the world might be in a given era, the gracious guidance of Christ would be sufficient to lead His faithful flock to the joys of everlasting glory. Hear now Theses 94 and 95.
- L** "Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace (*Acts 14:22*)."
- P** In Thesis 62, Luther shared the heart of his message in a most straightforward way, as he writes, "The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God." The closing stanza of "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" is a prayer for peace and unity to the Holy Spirit. With the psalmist we say to our loving Lord, "I will praise You with an upright heart. . . . I will keep Your statutes" (*119:7a, 8a*). Together we sing the last stanza of Luther's hymn of trust and faith.

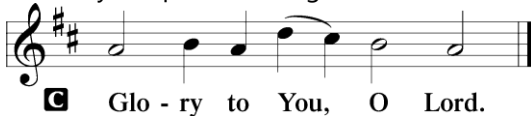
**3. O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.**

HOLY GOSPEL

(Jesus proclaims that "the truth will set you free.")

John 8:31–36

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



³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in 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 commits 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

LSB 656

Introduction: Brass and Organ

- 1. A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**
- 2. With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord, And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.**

continued

*Choir: 3. Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.*

Interlude

**4. The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Randy Duncan

CREED

"In God We Believe"

- 1. In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.**
- 2. In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross He endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.**
- 3. God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
With power and truth the Church now He does bless.
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. Amen.**

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OFFERING

*The ushers bring forward our gifts as a response to His blessings in our lives.
Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary both before and after services.*

PRAYER AT OFFERING

P Heavenly Father, in following Your example, we offer these gifts to you today. As you have blessed us without measure, we bring these tithes to you and pray that You would bless them for the continuance and growth of Your kingdom. A kingdom that waits joyfully for Jesus' return. Bless us as we offer ourselves to You in our vocations, so that we manage and use all the gifts you have bestowed on us to Your glory.

C **All that I have is Yours, Lord Jesus. All that I have is You.**

P Use then all of our gifts for works of love, mercy, witness, and unto the increase of Your glory.

C **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, over and around us lies. Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise. For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night. Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light, sun and moon and stars of light. Lord of all, to thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child. Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, for all gentle thoughts and mild. Lord of all, to thee we raise this joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven, flowers of earth and buds of heaven. Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O Lord of hosts, we give You glory and thanks for being our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, especially on this Reformation festival. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Thank You for the gift of Your grace that alone sets us free through the blood of Your Son, Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Faithful and forgiving God, thank You for bringing us to faith in You. It is through this faith alone that we are saved. Grow us in Your grace and guide us by Your Spirit in living our faith daily. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, You have given us the Word of Life. Strengthen us by Your Word. Lead and guide us by Your truth. Give Your church on earth faithful pastors who preach and teach the Gospel in all its purity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

continued

P Lord Jesus, You are the One who sets us free. In You alone our hope is found. You are our strength and our refuge. Remember all who face adversity of any kind. Comfort, strengthen, and heal them by Your Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Preserve Your church, O Lord, and each of us as members of Christ's Body, that we may not surrender the true Gospel for any reason but be kept in this faith and fear throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage, until that day when we and all Your people shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward You have prepared for us and all who have loved His appearing. To You alone be all glory, now and forever, for You rule and reign as one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Grace Alone"

Scott Wesley Brown

Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith; every difference we will make is only by His grace. Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine; every blessing left behind is only by His grace. Grace alone which God supplies; strength unknown He will provide, Christ in us, our Cornerstone, we will go forth in grace alone. Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach; everywhere we share His peace is only by His grace. Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away; every sorrow turned to praise is only by His grace. Grace alone which God supplies; strength unknown He will provide, Christ in us, our Cornerstone, we will go forth in grace alone. Amazing grace, amazing grace.

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BENEDICTION

Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11; Numbers 6:24–26

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

C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

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

C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Introduction: Brass, Organ & Handbells

**All: 1. Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

*Choir: 2. Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!*

Interlude: Brass, Organ & Handbells

**Women: 3. Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

*Choir: 4. From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!*

**Men: 5. Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!**

Interlude: Brass, Organ & Handbells

**All: △ 6. God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!**

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TABLE PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Trumpet Voluntary"

John Stanley





UNIVERSITY
LUTHERAN CHAPEL

Rev. Dr. Randy Duncan is the Pastor of Campus Mission at University Lutheran Chapel Ann Arbor and the point person for the Campus Ministry Network of the Michigan District. Prior to this, Randy was the Campus Pastor and adjunct professor at Concordia University Ann Arbor. Randy has served as the Senior Pastor of a congregation he planted in Plymouth, Michigan named Living Word Lutheran Church. He is a graduate of Concordia, Ann Arbor (where he met his wife) and received his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. Randy received his Doctor of Education degree from Concordia University Wisconsin.

Rev. Dr. Randy Duncan has planted nine churches. He has been a missionary church planter among the Gypsy population of North America, and has assisted in the planting of churches in Cote d' Ivoire (Ivory Coast), West Africa, among the Krahn tribe. He was the founding missionary of a mission society named People of the Book Lutheran Outreach, which is dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus cross-culturally with the Arab and Pakistani populations in North America. Randy is a co-author of the Concordia Publishing House book "Lutheranism 101" and his personal mission is to know Jesus more fully in order to make Him more fully known. He and his wife, Amy, live in Brighton, Michigan, and have six children—Joshua, Christopher, Heather, Jackson, Joseph, and Grace.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS –

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Randy Duncan,
University Lutheran Chapel & Michigan District, Ann Arbor

Assisting: Rev. Dan Murray, Immanuel, Dearborn Heights
Rev. Chris Fairbairn, St. Paul, Northville
Rev. Joel Werner, Christ Our Savior, Livonia
Vicar Fritz Quitmeyer, Christ Our Savior, Livonia
Rev. Dean Davenport, Christ Our Savior, Livonia

Director of Music: Tom Schroeder

Musicians: Lutheran High School Choir, Westland – Director: Alexis Peltier
Emmanuel Lutheran Church Choir, Dearborn – Director: Zachary Ziechang
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Northville – Director: Paul Ventimiglia
Christ Our Savior Festival Choir
Christ Our Savior Victory Brass Ensemble
Christ Our Savior JuBellation Handbell Choir

Flute: Kaitlyn Arnold

Pianist: Frankie Rogers

Elder: Jess Hatten

Acolyte: Logan Williams

Greeters: Bob and Gini Krenz

Media Team: Ethan Kittleman, Mark Young, Joshua Riegel

Ushers: Team 3; Grant Ingersoll, Captain

Ken Ciscon, Ethan Kittleman, Bob Krenz, Gini Krenz, Bob Tyler

Welcome Desk: Jill Ritzler

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