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

Reformation Day Worship

Sunday, October 25, 2026 – 3:00pm

AS WE GATHER

Do you feel up for fireworks? Our remembrance of Reformation Day has a lot in common with American Independence Day. It is a day of proclaiming daring declarations, remembering the brave and the bold, and basking in the freedoms won for us. Martin Luther's name may come up more today than usual, but Pastor Luther would be quick to steer the attention back to Jesus. There would be no Ninety-Five Theses without Jesus' declaration "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (*John 8:36*). The boldness of the reformers was only fueled by the bravery of Christ, facing the challenge of this world's darkness on their behalf. The freedoms the church celebrates on Reformation Day were not won in the 1500s but at the cross and empty tomb "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (*Romans 3:24*). So light the fireworks. Celebrate freedom. Christ sets the sinner free!

Order of Worship

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Festive Praise"

Susan E. Geschke

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ Preparation ✠

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

LSB 656

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.**
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.**
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.**

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 119:89–90a; John 8:36; Hebrews 13:8

- P** Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.
C **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**
P If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
C **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 119:90b; John 8:34; Psalm 119:94a; John 8:31

- P** Lord, You have established the earth, and it stands fast.
- C** **All creation is sustained by Your Word and made to serve Your holy purposes.**
- P** And yet, we can ignore or defy Your Word and fail to pursue Your purposes.
- C** **Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin, and we seek Your freedom.**
- P** For our sins of thought, word, and deed, for our action and inaction, for our inborn sinfulness and failures of faith, we beg for mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
- C** **I am Yours; save me.**

Pause for silent reflection

- P** Jesus speaks, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples." The blood of Christ is put forward as our propitiation, that repentant sinners might receive the righteousness of God. As a 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.**

✠ Service of the Word ✠

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

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.



THIS IS THE FEAST

Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9

P This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and
hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

continued



SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.

P Let us pray. 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.

G Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"This is the Day the Lord has Made"

Handel/arr. Hopson

This is the day that the Lord has made; rejoice, rejoice and sing. Rejoice, rejoice and sing. Rejoice and sing. Rejoice and sing. We triumph. We triumph in the name of the Lord our God. We triumph. We triumph. We triumph in the name of the Lord our God.

This is the day that the Lord has made; rejoice, rejoice and sing. We triumph in the name of the Lord our God. Hallelujah. This is the day the Lord has made. We shall not die, but we shall live forevermore. We triumph. We triumph. Hallelujah, hallelujah. Text © 1995 the H.W. Gray Company All rights reserved.

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6–7

(John shares his vision of an everlasting, all-encompassing Gospel.)

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.

PSALM FOR REFORMATION *(sung)*

Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7

- P** God is our ref- | uge and strength,*
a very present help in | trouble.
- C** **Therefore we will not fear though the | earth gives way,***
though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea,
- P** though its waters | roar and foam,*
though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.
- C** **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,***
the holy habitation of the | Most High.
- P** God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be moved;*
God will help her when | morning dawns.
- C** **The nations rage, the kingdoms | totter;***
He utters His voice, the | earth melts.
- P** Come, behold the works | of the LORD,*
how He has brought desolations | on the earth.
- C** **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!"
- All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son***
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

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HANDBELL ANTHEM

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

arr. Lauran Delancy

EPISTLE

(Paul declares the sinner is justified by grace through faith.)

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.

HYMN

"The Law of God Is Good and Wise"

LSB 579

**All: 1. The Law of God is good and wise And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness, And dooms to death when we transgress.**

*Choir: 2. Its light of holiness imparts The knowledge of our sinful hearts
That we may see our lost estate And turn from sin before too late.*

**Women: 3. To those who help in Christ have found And would in works of love abound
It shows what deeds are His delight And should be done as good and right.**

**Men: 4. But those who scornfully disdain God's Law shall then in sin remain;
Its terror in their ear resounds And keeps their wickedness in bounds.**

**All: 5. The Law is good; but since the fall Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die And has no pow'r to justify.**

**6. To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne, Saved by His grace through faith alone.**

BRASS ANTHEM

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

arr. S. Drummond Wolff

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

(Christ announces Himself as the Son who gives freedom to sin's slaves.)

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

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

"Festival Gloria/All Glory Be to God on High"

John A. Behnke

Choir: Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest!

**All: 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.**

Choir: Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God in the highest.

**All: 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.**

Choir: Praise to God! Praise to God! Praise to God in the highest!

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!

Interlude

**All: 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.**

Choir: Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest!

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SERMON

"We're Supposed to be Lutherans"

Romans 3

THIS IS WHAT WE BELIEVE

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Festival Sanctus"

Jon Leavitt

Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth (Holy Lord, God of hosts)

Hosanna Deo, hosanna in excelsis! (Glory to God in the highest)

Benedictus qui venit (Blessed is he who comes)

In nomine Domine Dei (In the name of the Lord)

Sanctus sanctus sanctus Domine deus (Holy, holy, holy, Lord)

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua (The heavens and earth are full of your glory)

Hosanna in excelsis Deo! (Glory to God in the highest)

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Psalm 119:89–90

- P** Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.
- C** **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**
- P** And so we pray: Almighty and everlasting God, our refuge and strength, teach Your church not to fear but to trust Your unshakable promises, that faithful to Your Word, she might remain a present help for troubled hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Ever-living Lord, You have sent an eternal Gospel to be proclaimed to every nation and tribe and language and people. Raise up from among us faithful pastors, teachers, and missionaries who will proclaim the crucified and risen Christ as the only hope of sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Holy Spirit, our Comforter, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, protect all citizens of the world from danger and disaster and make Your holy people agents of peace who pursue the common good. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, truth incarnate, You ask Your people to abide in Your Word. Make us crave the nourishment of Scripture and build in us healthy habits and disciplines that put Your Holy Word central in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Abiding Savior, You proclaim freedom from sin. Deliver Your servants also from illness, injury, and infirmity. We lift up the sick and suffering among us. Grant them comfort in Your presence and confidence in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Faithful Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, patient in suffering, bold in confession, and joyful in hope, until that day when the everlasting Gospel is heard in its fullness and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

C Amen.

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Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary both before and after services.
Or give online using the QR code in the front of the bulletin.

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

"Grace Alone"

Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson

Ev'ry promise we can make, ev'ry prayer and step of faith; ev'ry difference we will make is only by His grace. Ev'ry mountain we will climb, ev'ry ray of hope we shine; ev'ry 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. Ev'ry soul we long to reach, ev'ry heart we hope to teach; ev'rywhere we share His peace is only by His grace. Ev'ry loving word we say, ev'ry tear we wipe away; ev'ry 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.

CLOSING SENTENCES

John 8:36; Galatians 5:1; Romans 6:23; Galatians 5:13

- P** If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
C **For freedom Christ has set us free.**
P For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
C **For freedom Christ has set us free.**
P Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
C **For freedom Christ has set us free.**

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- 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.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Thy Strong Word"

LSB 578

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

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

arr. S. Drummond Wolff



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS –

Liturgist: Pastor Davenport
Preaching: Pastor Werner
Director of Music: Tom Schroeder
Musicians: Lutheran High School Westland Choir; Director: Abigail Porter
St. Paul Lutheran Church Choir, Northville
Emmanuel Lutheran Church Choir, Dearborn; Director: Zachary Zieschang
COS Festival Choir
COS JuBellation Handbell Choir; Director, Lindsay Miller
COS Victory Brass Ensemble
Accompanist: Frankie Rogers
Elder: Dan Young
Acolyte: Logan Williams
Altar Guild: Cheryl Grava and Sandy Komraus
Greeters: Bob and Gini Krenz
Media Team: Mark Young, Jon Malinowski, Gillian Drake
Ushers: Team 7; Jim Edwards, Captain
Dan Dobberfuhr, Ruth Dobberfuhr, Jeff Myers, Otto Geiseman
Welcome Desk: Jill Ritzler

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