
THE CHRISTIAN WAITS
Steadfast in the faith. Focused on future glory. Watchful for the bridegroom.
Faithful for the master. Hopeful for the coming judgment.

FAITH
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

Service Theme –Sunday Series – The Christian Waits

The Christian Waits: Steadfast in the faith.

The Christian Waits: Focused on future glory.

The Christian Waits: Watchful for the bridegroom.

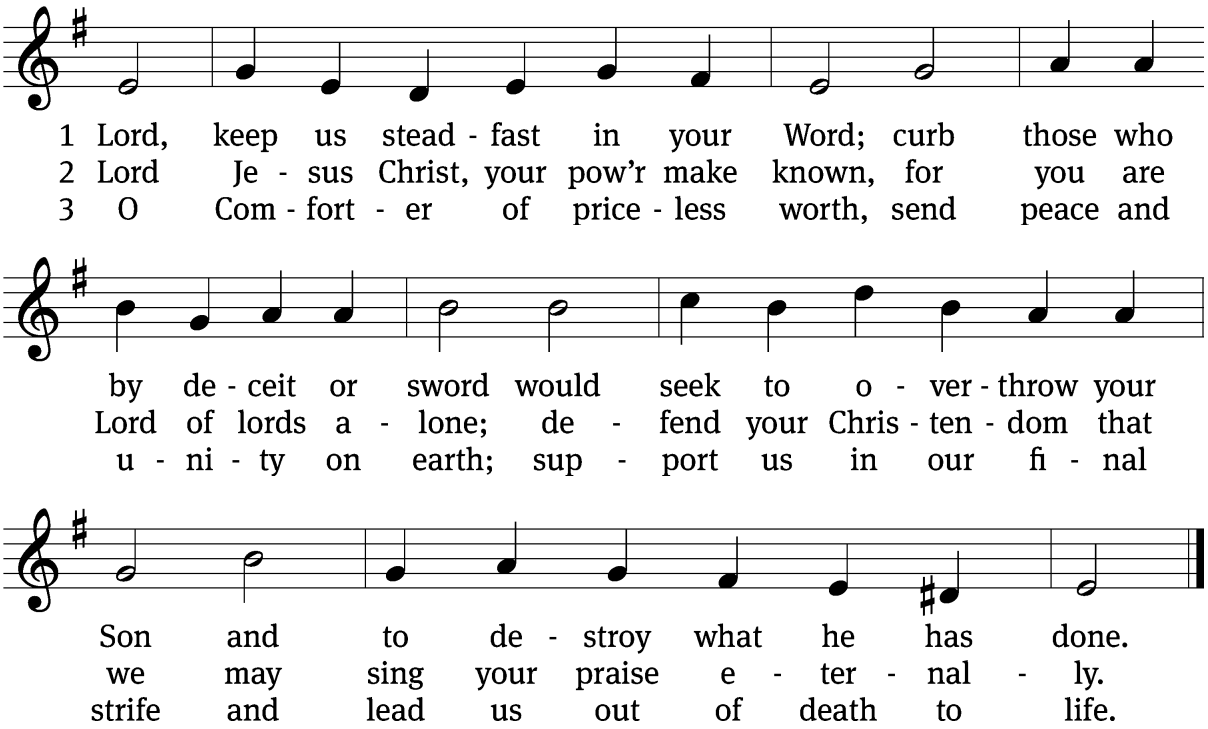
The Christian Waits: Faithful for the master.

The Christian Waits: Hopeful for the coming judgment.

Note: Page numbers in this digital-only version of the bulletin vary from what may be announced in the live service.

Hymn (8:15am)

862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder zu Wittemberg, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Choir (10:30am): God Is For Us

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

1004

Tune: BEECHER



Text: Michael A. Perry
Tune: John Zundel
Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 739977
Tune: Public domain

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Daniel 6:10–12,16–23

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his
upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down
on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. 11 Then these
men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. 12 So they went to the
king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the
next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty,
would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and
Persians, which cannot be repealed."

16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den.
The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with
his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be
changed. 18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and
without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. 20 When he came
near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God,
has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

21 Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! 22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the
mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor
have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

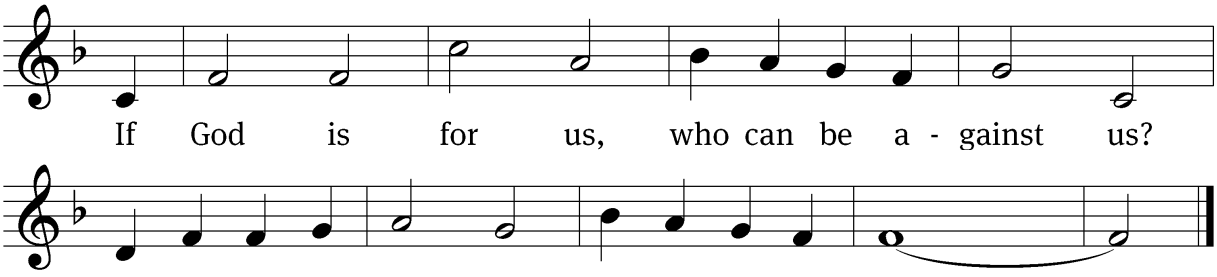
23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel
was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 46E

Refrain



Verses



Text: James Chepponis

Text and tune: © 2004 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 739977

Second Reading

Romans 3:19–28

[19]Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. [20]Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

[21]But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. [22]This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, [23]for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24]and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. [25]God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— [26]he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

[27]Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. [28]For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 12:32

Refrain



Do not be afraid, little flock,
for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

Refrain

Tune: © 1984 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 739977

Gospel

Matthew 10:16–23

16 “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and
as innocent as doves. 17 Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be
flogged in the synagogues. 18 On my account you will be brought before governors and kings
as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they arrest you, do not worry about
what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, 20 for it will not be you
speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

21 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against
their parents and have them put to death. 22 You will be hated by everyone because of me, but
the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 23 When you are persecuted in one place,
flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before
the Son of Man comes.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

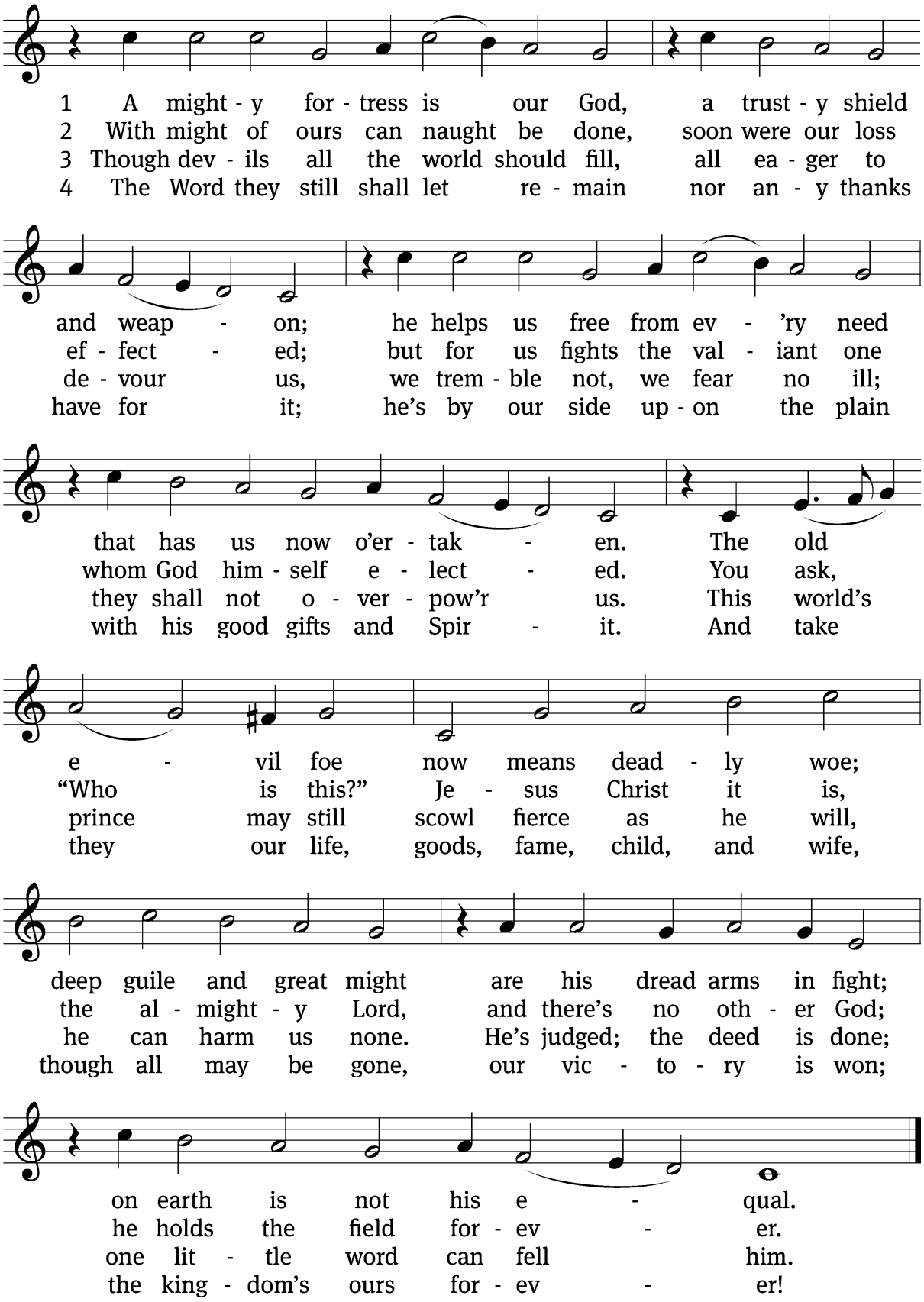
Hymn of the Day

863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

It is not known for certain when Martin Luther wrote this hymn. Some scholars consider it to have been inspired by the Diet of Speyer, where, on April 20, 1529, the German princes made their formal “protest” against the revocation of their liberties and thus gained the name “Protestants.”

Ein’ feste Burg was a hymn of great comfort to Luther and his followers. When he was discouraged he would often invite his friends to sing it for courage and strength (“Kommt, lasst uns den 46. Psalm singen,” “Come, let us sing Psalm 46…”) and he apparently sang it regularly while being sheltered at the Coburg castle during the Diet of Augsburg in 1530.

Called the “Marseillaise Hymn of the Reformation” by the 19th-century literary figure Heinrich Heine, the hymn spread rapidly throughout Germany. Philipp Melanchthon, Justus Jonas, and Caspar Cruciger, during their banishment in 1547, were comforted by hearing a young girl sing it in Weimar. It was sung at the Diet of Augsburg in 1530. Gustavus Adolphus caused it to be sung by his army before the battle of Leipzig in 1631. This hymn has been translated into a host of other languages, with over one hundred English translations alone.


1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe; deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight; on earth is not his e - qual.
2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask, "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is, the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God; he holds the field for - ev - er.
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill; they shall not o - ver - pow'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 lit - tle word can fell him.
4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife, though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won; the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

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

I 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.

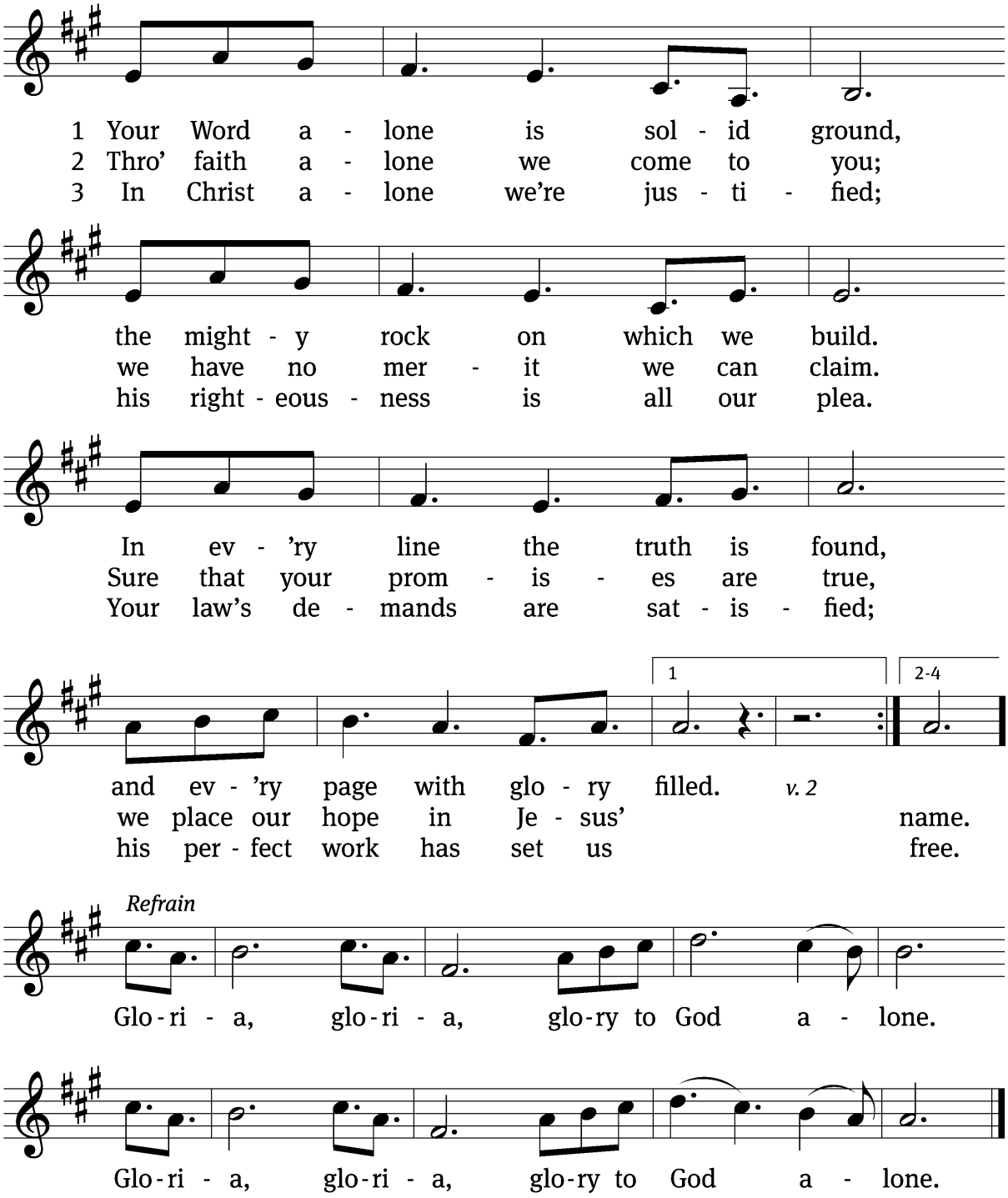
Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering / Friendship Registers

Hymn

877 Reformation Song



4 By grace alone we have been saved;
all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
now by your pow'r have been made new. (Refrain)

5 And on this Reformation Day
we join with saints of old to sing;
we lift our hearts as one in praise:
glory to Christ our gracious King. (Refrain)

Text: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955
Tune: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955
Text and tune: © 2017 Sovereign Grace Praise, admin. IntegratedRights.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 739977

Stand

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

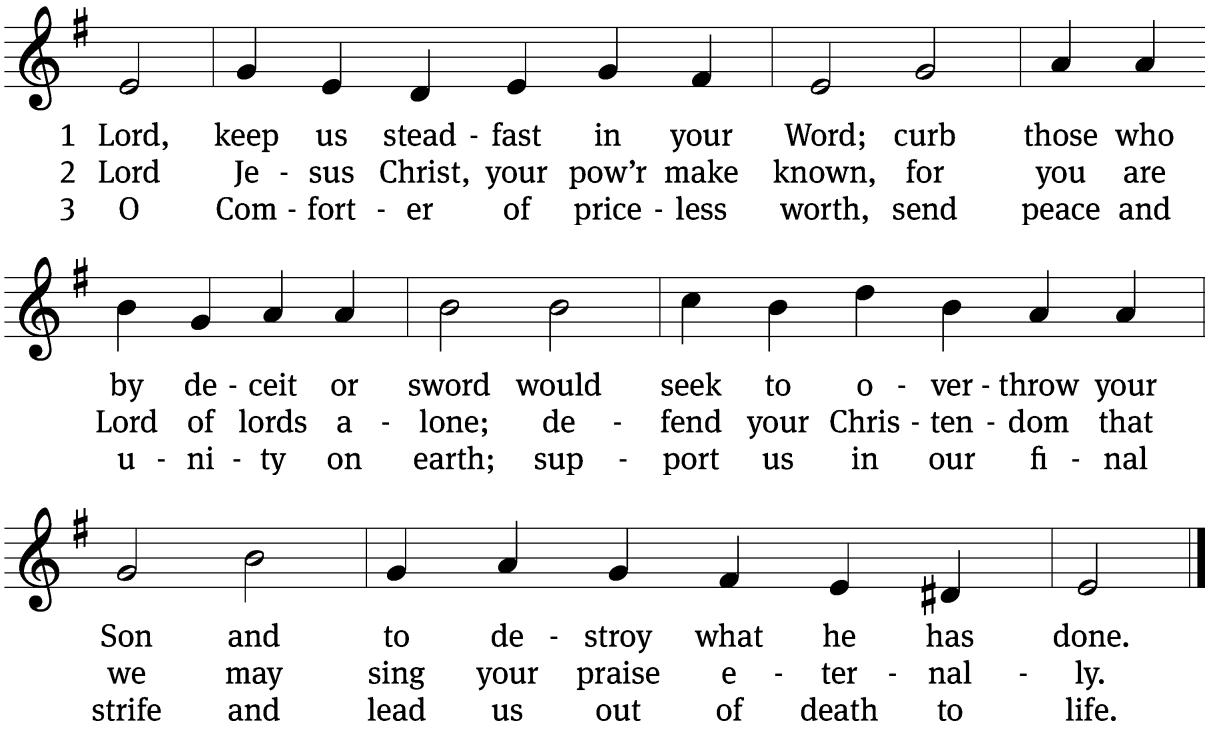
Choir (8:15am): God Is For Us

Hymn

862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

This hymn was written by Martin Luther in 1541 during a time of political and religious tension in Reformation-era Germany. The hymn reflects Luther's concern for the preservation of the gospel against both external threats and internal corruption. Originally written in German, it was a prayer for God to defend his Church and maintain the truth of his Word amid opposition from the papacy and the Ottoman Turks.

The tune ERHALT UNS, HERR first appeared with the text in Johann Walter's 1543 Wittenberg hymnal. Its sturdy, straightforward melody complements the hymn's urgent character, making it well suited for congregational singing.



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder zu Wittemberg, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Calendar

Monday 7pm Faith Builders
Tuesday 7pm Financial Peace University
Wednesday 7pm Choir
Thursday 6pm Thursday Night Fellowship @ Summerbrooke

Next Ladies' Book Club will be Friday, November 6th at 7pm at the home of Karen Schultz, 2531 Capstone Dr. (770) 310-5206. Book: An American Beauty by Shana Abé (books not available at church this time).

Download our church app…

The Lutheran Reformation

Nine years before Columbus discovered America, Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany. Raised in poverty, the bright young Luther eventually attended the University of Erfurt. His family's fortunes had changed for the better, so with some support from his father, he was on his way to becoming a lawyer.

Since Luther was also raised as a Roman Catholic, he had been taught to pray to the saints, to respect the pope and the Roman Catholic Church, and to do good works to gain God's favor. In none of these, however, did he find peace when troubled by his sins. So he decided to join a monastery and become a monk, hoping that this rigid life style would lead him to a holier life, a life through which he hoped to find peace. Yet, by sleeping on hard floors, scrubbing floors till his hands were bare, and beating his own body, he found no peace.

Dr. Staupitz, the head of the monastery, advised Luther to teach Word of God classes at the University of Wittenberg. Through his studies and teaching there, Luther came to know that God loved and forgave him fully through Christ. He learned that forgiveness came not through good works or a rigid lifestyle but rather by faith, simply through trusting in Jesus.

This "new" teaching of Luther became very popular. Intending to debate those in the Catholic Church who taught wrongly, Martin Luther posted 95 statements of belief. Over time this platform for debate was translated into German, printed, and published throughout Germany. It became viewed as an outright rebellion against the Roman Catholic Church. These "95 Theses" were posted on the Wittenberg church door on October 31st, 1517.

Instead of being invited to debate, it was demanded that Luther retract all his statements or be removed from the Catholic Church. Five years later, standing before the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, Luther said, "Unless you can prove from the Bible that I have made wrong statements, I cannot and I will not take back anything. My conscience is bound by the Word of God. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

For this statement Luther was declared an outlaw whom anyone could kill after twenty days. It was then that one of Luther's friends arranged to have him "kidnapped" and taken for safe keeping to the Wartburg Castle, where Luther spent a year in hiding. He spent that year translating the New Testament from Greek to German, so that his German countrymen could read the Bible for themselves and see that we are not saved by obeying the pope or by doing good works but only through trusting in what Jesus has done for us.

When the emperor became busy with other things, Luther was able to spend the last twenty years of his life in the Wittenberg area, teaching and preaching God's Word according to its truth.

509 years later, we call ourselves Lutheran because, as Luther did, we rely only on the words of scripture and not the words of men. Like Luther, we trust that through faith in Jesus Christ alone we are given eternal life. By good works we do not gain eternal life. Good works are our way of thanking God for the gift of eternal life he has given us in Christ.

Our church is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. As members of this conservative Lutheran church body, we give thanks to God today for the heritage that we as Lutherans have received from God's servant Martin Luther, namely, that we are saved by grace alone, by faith alone, by scripture alone.