

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
21st Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Day Observed
October 25, 2020

PRELUDE

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

A. W. Leupold

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Gracious God, have mercy on us.

C In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth;
good-will from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, the Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heart-felt cry,
where You in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High,
in God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your Word, protect and comfort us in all temptations, defend us against all enemies, and bestow on us 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. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

¹The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak 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....

¹⁵You 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. ¹⁶You 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. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY (*Based on Psalm 46*)

P God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

C Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

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 Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-46

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 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." ⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²"What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Here I Am, Lord

Daniel Schutte

SERMON

“There are Only Two”

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

C 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

P In Your love, gracious God, You speak to Your church. Give courage and the bond of love to all who gather in Your name, that it may extend through us to our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You have created our earth and filled it with living things of every kind. Sustain the intricate connections among plants, insects, animals, and organisms we can’t even see. Bless the work of scientists who help us embrace the natural world and uncover its blessings to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You guide the world with justice. Inspire leaders to seek truth and wisdom at all times, that decisions are made for the good of all. We pray especially for our country during this time of national election. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You tenderly care for Your children and bring them back to health. Grant relief to all those who need healing, hope, or restoration this day, especially all on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE).
Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You are with us in times of transition and development in our lives. We pray for new parents, for those grieving the loss of a loved one, for those who are retiring, and for those embarking on new ventures. We also give thanks for the young people of our congregation and pray especially for Your blessing upon the Confirmation Class of 2020 and their families. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We remember those who were dear to us and now rest in You. We give thanks for Martin Luther and all who seek to 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,

C hear our prayer.

P As we call on You, O God, enfold in Your loving arms all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P And now, as our Lord has taught us, we are bold to pray:

C 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.

CLOSING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

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.

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.

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.

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, or wife,
though these all be gone, our vict'ry has been won.
the Kingdom ours remaineth.

BENEDICTION

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.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress

Johann Pachelbel

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Special thanks to our additional participants in today's service:

Lector James Maxeiner

Youth Musicians Joshua Gleason
Zachary Gleason
Audrey Heath
Lorelei Heath
Henry Podoll
Nora Podoll

Hannah Pitman, director and accompanist

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