

25 October 2020. 10:30AM
REFORMATION DAY
CONCORDIA

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
725 Truxton Dive, Kingsport, TN.

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For we hold
that one is
justified by
faith apart
from works of
the law.

ROMANS 3

Collect

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.

Introit

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | O Lord,* and shall not be | put to shame. **I will bless the LORD at | all times;* his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.** My soul makes its boast | in the LORD;* let the humble hear | and be glad. **Come, O children, lis- | ten to me;*** **I will teach you the fear | of the LORD.** The LORD redeems the life of his | servants;* none of those who take refuge in him will | be condemned. **Glory 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.**
I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | O Lord,* and shall not be | put to shame.

Selected Readings

Revelation 14:6–7 Romans 3:19–28 John 8:31–36

The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace

- *“Wisdom is justified by her deeds”* (Matt. 11:19), and the true wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, justifies us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, in order that we may eat and drink with Him in His Kingdom and *“remain in the house forever”* (John 8:35).
- He is *“a friend of tax collectors and sinners”* (Matt. 11:18–19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel *“to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people”* (Rev. 14:6),
- *“the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law”* (Rom. 3:21), *“that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus”* (Rom. 3:26) And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, *“whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith”* (Rom. 3:25), *“you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”* (John 8:31–32).

Stewardship

Oct. 25 Reformation Day. John 8:36 – “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Today we celebrate Reformation Day! Luther is rightly remembered as a champion of the Gospel, but he also called himself “the apostle of good works.”

For only in being set free by the Gospel can we do good works. Jesus has set us free, and His blood covers over our sins. We stand before God as His beloved children, and we are invited to live our lives to His glory for the good of His kingdom.

Sermon Notes

God's Approval through Faith Alone! Romans 3:23-24, 28.

Discipleship Leading to Evangelism

The Liturgy

As soldiers of Christ our whole life is dedicated to the resistance of the evil one. We resist the devil through our faithful attendance at the Divine Service. That is where Christ fights for us and equips us for the battle. The Divine Service is His main base and our safe place of refuge.

- There He speaks His Holy Word to us and gives us His Holy Spirit. He also gives us His holy blood to cleanse and sanctify us.
- There He gets the devil off our backs and drives Him from our conscience.
- There we, too, engage in the battle by calling on His name and relying on Him for our deliverance.
- In the Divine Service we resist the devil corporately by praying for ourselves, the Church and the world.
- There we defy the devil by confessing our faith and singing songs of praise.

So, it should not surprise us that he will do everything possible to stop us from going to Church and to sabotage our involvement in the Divine Service.

We therefore resist him, most powerfully, by drawing near to God. Every time we go to church to confess our sins, hear the Word of God, and receive Holy Communion, the devil loses another battle.”

Dr. John Kleinig *Grace Upon Grace* CPH

Prayer of the Church. Reformation Day. 25 October 2020.

Having confidence in our justification by grace through faith and having access to the Father in Jesus' name, let us turn our hearts in prayer on behalf of ourselves, the Church and all people according to their needs.

O almighty God, You have shown Your faithfulness by raising up those in every generation who call Your Church to repentance and renewal. Continue to raise up voices in our own day who herald the truth of Your Word and proclaim the faith in purity and truth against all enemies. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, You do not desire the death of the sinner but want all to come to faith and life in Christ. Raise up faithful pastors who will preach Your Word without fail and teach the doctrine delivered to the saints, that many may hear and believe. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, Your Word has been the light and salvation throughout the ages. Help us to bring Your grace to those in darkness, and grant them freedom through the forgiveness of their sins. Bless the missionaries serving far and near and the new congregations they establish in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of power and might, You have established governments and the order of law for the protection of all people and to preserve the freedom to worship You in spirit and in truth. Grant to Donald, our president; Bill, our governor; the Congress of these United States; and the legislature of our state wisdom, humility and integrity, that all may enjoy true justice and the protection of life from its conception to its natural end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy and gracious God, Your power is revealed chiefly in showing mercy to those in need. Give to the sick healing, to the troubled peace, to the grieving comfort and to the dying peace. Hear us first on behalf of _____ and those we name in our hearts before You. According to Your gracious promise, grant patience to those in tribulation and trial. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You have given great gifts to Your people and provided resources to provide for their own needs and for the poor. Bless the agencies and programs of Your Church by which Your people give aid and support to those in need. Help us to provide gainful employment to all people, that they may enjoy the fruits of their labors and honor You with the works of their hands. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God and Father, Your own Son has set His table among us and gives His own flesh and blood to be the bread of heaven that feeds us everlasting life and the cup of salvation in which our thirst is satisfied forever. Give us Your Holy Spirit, that we may commune worthily and in repentance and faith feast upon His Holy Sacrament. Bring us at last to that day when all earthly divisions will cease and we will be one people before the altar of the Lord. Until that day, preserve among us Your Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O faithful Lord, throughout the ages You spoke hope through the prophets until that day when You delivered up Your own Son to be our Savior and Redeemer. Bless those who are just learning the Gospel, and bless us with the desire to know and keep Your Word. Encourage Your people to avail themselves of the grace of confession and absolution so that they may forgive one another and live in the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God and Father, we pray You to grant us all good things that will benefit us in body and soul and to prevent anything harmful to us or to our salvation. Teach us to live in contentment with Your will and purpose and in the freedom You alone supply to serve You with all our heart, mind, body and soul; all these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**