



# Christ Lutheran CHURCH

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**Reformation Sunday**  
October 29, 2023

## **YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**

At Christ Lutheran people of all backgrounds and experiences gather to worship because we all share a common hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals (“ELW”) in the seats in front on you.

If you have a prayer request, the yellow cards in the seatback holders have a place for them; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

## **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!**

God’s people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child’s life. There’s some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God’s love takes root in their lives!

## **WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP**

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

## **RESTROOMS**

Men’s and women’s restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored, and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The **COMMON CUP** is available for anyone who wishes. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that a pastor can bring communion to you.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

*Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.*

**A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.**

*Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### **PRELUDE**

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

Pachelbel

### **CHORAL INTROIT**

*Luther's Morning Prayer*

*I thank you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You kept me safely through the night, and brought me to the morning light. Be with me through this day, I pray, and keep me safe from Satan's sway that all I think or do or say please only you, my Strength and Stay. Into your hands I now command my body and soul until life's end. Your angels keep me safe from harm until I rest in Jesus' arms. Amen.*

### **WELCOME**

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG. Martin Luther  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.*

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

*When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level and voice, which may vary from the printed texts.*

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

*The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.*

### **CHORAL ANTHEM (10:30 am) Rejoice in God**

Schütz/Grundahl

*Rejoice in God, all Christendom, your hearts and voices raising, with glad new songs, rejoicing come, God's wondrous mercy praising. Sing unto God with psaltery, let harps and strings accompany your hymns of praise and honor. The word of God is always true, and we may trust it ever, what God has promised, God will do, for love will fail us never. We sing of truth and righteousness, the earth which God did make and bless is full of love and goodness. Our soul now waits for you, O God, our help and our protection. Our heart rejoices in your word, we trust in your direction. Your mercy, God, upon us be according as we hope in thee. You are our mighty refuge. All Christendom, in God rejoice!*

### **READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 46

*The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.*

### Refrain

The Lord of hosts is with us; the  
God of Ja - cob is our strong - hold.

### Psalm Tone

The LORD of hosts is with us;  
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

- <sup>1</sup>God is our ref-<sup>1</sup>uge and strength,  
a very present<sup>1</sup> help in trouble.
- <sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the<sup>1</sup> earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths<sup>1</sup> of the sea;**
- <sup>3</sup>though its waters<sup>1</sup> rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble<sup>1</sup> with its tumult.
- <sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-<sup>1</sup>y of God,  
the holy habitation of<sup>1</sup> the Most High.**
- <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall<sup>1</sup> not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the<sup>1</sup> break of day.
- <sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the<sup>1</sup> kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth<sup>1</sup> melts away. R**
- <sup>7</sup>The LORD of<sup>1</sup> hosts is with us;  
he God of Jacob<sup>1</sup> is our stronghold.
- <sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought up-<sup>1</sup> on the earth;**
- <sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in<sup>1</sup> all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the<sup>1</sup> shields with fire.
- <sup>10</sup>**"Be still, then, and know that<sup>1</sup> I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted<sup>1</sup> in the earth."**
- <sup>11</sup>The LORD of<sup>1</sup> hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob<sup>1</sup> is our stronghold. R

## READING: Romans 3:19-28

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

<sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



## **HOLY GOSPEL: John 8:31-36**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.*



# HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #517

## *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

*The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who; 2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are; 3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and; by de- ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son; Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we; u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife; and bring to naught all he has done.; may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.; and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

## PRAYERS

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. We pray for our United States of America and for our neighbor Canada, that you will bless our churches, equip national and local leaders to tend to the welfare of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer. Be their rest and comfort. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray for young people affirming their baptism. With them, stir in us a desire for your wisdom. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther, for Martín de Porres, and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

### **OFFERING**

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with Lutheran World Relief [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) and ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Response [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger) and [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster)*

*If you wish to give electronically, browse to our secure on-line portal at [clcvalpo.org/give](http://clcvalpo.org/give) or use [our CLC app](#) (download at [clcvalpo.org/app](http://clcvalpo.org/app)).*



### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM (8:00 am)**

*Rejoice in God*

Schütz/Grundahl

*Rejoice in God, all Christendom, your hearts and voices raising, with glad new songs, rejoicing come, God's wondrous mercy praising. Sing unto God with psaltery, let harps and strings accompany your hymns of praise and honor. The word of God is always true, and we may trust it ever, what God has promised, God will do, for love will fail us never. We sing of truth and righteousness, the earth which God did make and bless is full of love and goodness. Our soul now waits for you, O God, our help and our protection. Our heart rejoices in your word, we trust in your direction. Your mercy, God, upon us be according as we hope in thee. You are our mighty refuge. All Christendom, in God rejoice!*

### **OFFERTORY (10:30 am)**

*Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

arr. Culli

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

God of power, God of plenty,

**all things belong to you.**

**We bring your gifts to the table**

**that all might be fed.**

**Form us into the body of your Beloved,**

**Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

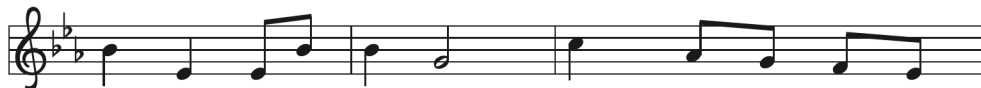
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:*

## SANCTUS

*(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is the one.")*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

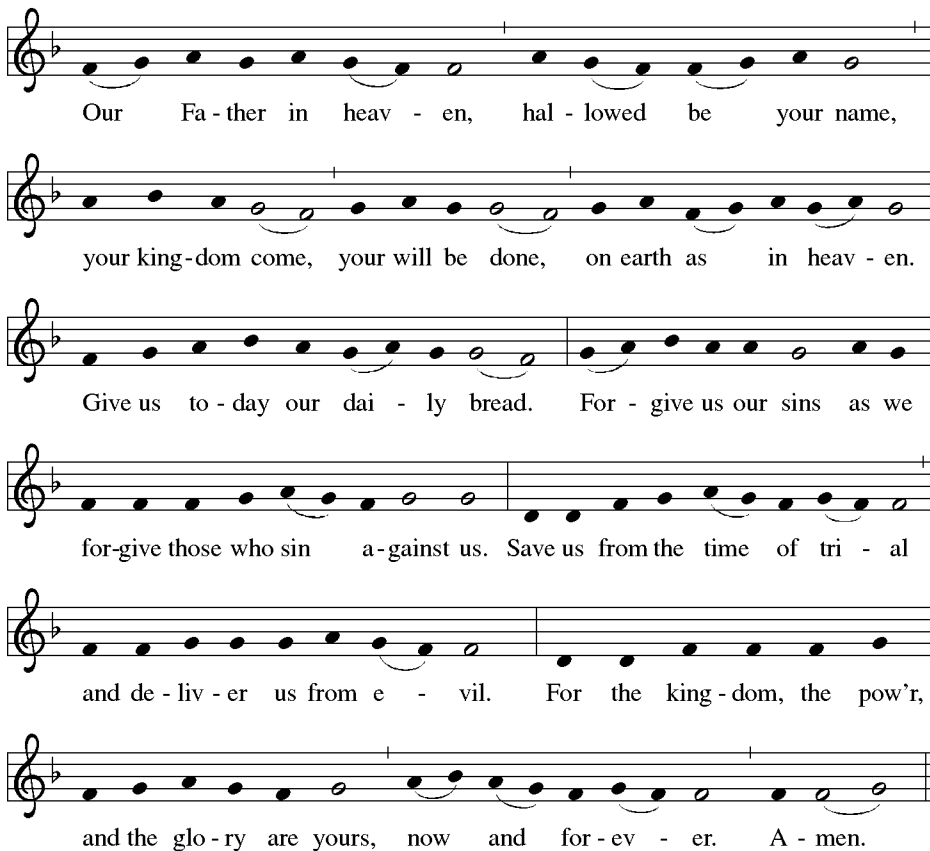


Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## TABLE PRAYER

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:*



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**Thanks be to God!**

## DISTRIBUTION

*The assembly is seated.*

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen (receive the bread)**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen (receive the cup)**

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored, and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. The **COMMON CUP** is available for anyone who wishes. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this. Also, if you unable to come up to the altar, let the usher know so that pastor can bring communion to you.

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



COMMUNION MUSIC ACS #1006

*By Grace We Have Been Saved*

*Refrain*



By grace we have been saved— saved by grace through faith,



not be-cause of what we do; it is the gift of God.



1 On the days when you are weak, on the  
2 Rest your bod - y, rest your mind, in the  
3 You don't need to be a - fraid. You will



days when you are strong, rich or poor,  
still - ness you will find you're a love - ly,  
nev - er be a - lone. There is mer - cy,



young or old, just lis - ten to the song.  
pre - cious child, part of the great de - sign.  
there is hope, and love will take you home.

Text: Jonathan Rundman, b. 1971

Music: BY GRACE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977, and Jonathan Rundman

Text © 2006 Jonathan Rundman and Salt Lady Music (ASCAP), admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 2006 Nathan Houge and Lutefist (ASCAP), and Jonathan Rundman and Salt Lady Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

ELW #467 *We Place upon Your Table, Lord*

The musical score is written in a two-staff system (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, where you by  
2 With - in these sim - ple things there lie the height and  
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them

grace have bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly  
depth of hu - man life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and  
hum - bly from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er

work, the food of life, the bread and wine.  
toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.  
use: the ho - ly meal that you com - mand.

Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884-1944, alt.  
Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.*  
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

### **INVITATIONS**

*Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

### **BLESSING**

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**



## SENDING HYMN ELW #652

*Built on a Rock*

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not  
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is

fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our

chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,  
grant that, when church bells are ringing,  
many may come to hear your Word,  
who here this promise is bringing:  
“I know my own, my own know me;  
you, not the world, my face shall see;  
my peace I leave with you. Amen.”

*Children join the pastors to send us in mission*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Lord God, Now Be Glorified  
(Herr Gott, Nun sei Gepreiset)*

J.S. Bach

*As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.*



## Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Luke Ridley	Danelle Rivera
Lector	Crystal Ridley	Phil McGuire
Prayer Assistant	Lanie Steinwart	Becky Fry
Communion Assistants	Erin Schmidgall Chris Schmidgall	Amy Knauff Erin Crill
Ushers	Tim Sutherland Don MacMillan	
Sound/Light	Zach Wehner	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	-----	John Buggeln
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Sanctuary Choir Adam Gibson-Even, cantor Heather Budnik, flute Becca Budnik, tambourine	
Communion Baker	Linda Mapes	

## *Stewardship Snippet*

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. – Psalm 46:1*

Even in moments of economic scarcity, we all have something to share from God's abundance—perhaps a smile or kind word is the blessing someone needs. If you are not in a position to give resources, then by all means give love and compassion.

## **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Canada and the United States of America.**

We are **thankful** for:

- the vast expanse of North America with its resources and varied landscapes; may they be preserved, enjoyed and used wisely
- those who are its original inhabitants – First Nations and Native Americans
- church-related organizations that strongly advocate for justice, and those that provide for new immigrants and refugees today, as well as for others who are poor and vulnerable
- ecumenical and interfaith engagements which are occurring in many communities that previously were mainly white and Christian.
- 

We **pray** for:

- churches facing new challenges, that they may continue to witness boldly to the gospel in evolving multicultural, multireligious and secular contexts
- indigenous peoples in their long struggles for survival, land and rights; and for ongoing healing and reconciliation with those who have come after them
- new immigrants, that they will continue to be welcomed in these countries, and that policies will serve the common good
- effectively countering systemic greed that exploits communities and natural resources
- government leaders that they would advance justice, human rights, and peace for all within these countries and in the rest of the world.

## **COMMEMORATIONS**

### ***Week of October 29***

#### **October 31**

##### **Reformation Day**

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

#### **November 1**

##### **All Saints Day**

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

#### **November 3**

##### **Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639**

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed Black woman from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.

## The Truth That Is Freeing

Two key words are in today's gospel reading. These words are simple but profound, and not always easy to understand: "truth" and "free."

*Truth* is a word that has become questioned, disputed, and suspect. Many news sources and social media memes promote a distorted truth to try to confuse or mislead others. How do you know which sources to believe? What counts as truth now?

Jesus said that the truth will make you free. Even if we figure out what counts as truth, do we understand what it means to be free? We commonly think of freedom as being free from some obligation or limit others impose on us. We value individual autonomy and don't want anyone else to tell us what to do. While this kind of freedom is important in the civil realm, it is far from the freedom of Jesus.

So how do we put these two seemingly simple but complex words together and understand what Jesus means? In John's gospel, the word "truth" is not abstract; it is the reality of God revealed in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Truth is knowing God through Jesus, and therefore knowing God as sacrificial love. This is the truth that sets us free. If we know God as revealed in Christ, then we know what true freedom is: freedom to love as God loves.

Martin Luther famously captured this truth when he said, in "The Freedom of a Christian" (1520), that Christians are truly free, subject to no one. And at the same time, Christians are servants of others called to love and care for them. This is the freedom we need and long for: freedom within a community of love. Jesus makes it possible for us by setting us free from having to become good enough for God to love us. God's love is the truth of the cross: extravagant, self-giving, and sure. We are truly free to love when we live in the love of God offered by Jesus.

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