# October 27, 2024

Reformation Day



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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<u>Divine Service</u>:

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am Sundays

Adult Bible Study & Sunday School: 9:30 am

<u>Pastor:</u> Richard Willsea

<u>Deaconess:</u> Karen Suter

Organist: Patty Barnes

#### REFORMATION DAY

October 27, 2024

## **→** PREPARATION **→**

Today we will observe The Lord's Supper... The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. The purple cup is grape juice. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.

**PRELUDE** 

"Royal Brass Music"
"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

Arr. D. Wolff Arr. R. Wilson

### WELCOME

## Stand

### **HYMN**

# "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

LSB 656





## **INVOCATION**

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **OPENING SENTENCES**

- P Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
- **G** from everlasting to everlasting!
- P Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for Your name's sake!
- We Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; from generation to generation we will recount Your praise.
- Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
- As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P Beloved in the Lord, as together we make our confession this day, we use words of a confessional hymn text based on Psalm 130, written by Martin Luther more than five hundred years ago in 1523. In confidence, let us come before our gracious Lord to confess our sins and to receive His gracious absolution. We speak the words of the psalm and then sing the stanzas penned by the great reformer.
- Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.
- O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
- P God has promised His forgiveness of sins to those who repentantly confess their sins, imploring His grace and mercy for the sake of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, as His called

and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\pm$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

## **→** SERVICE OF THE WORD **→**

## INTROIT

Psalm 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

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, listen 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.

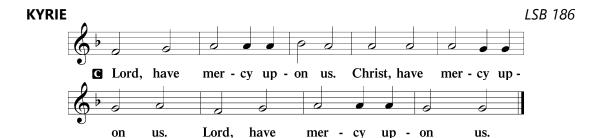
Glory be to the Father and to the Son

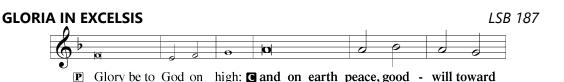
and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,] and shall not be put to shame.







### SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- 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.
- C Amen.

# **REFORMATION SEQUENCE**

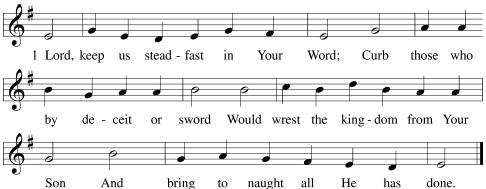
Part 1

- P One of the most famous documents of the Reformation Era is the set of the Ninety-Five Theses posted on the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517. In this set of ninety-five statements that Dr. Luther wished to have debated was a challenge to accepted practices in the church of his time that Luther felt were at odds with the biblical witness and therefore were not true. His introduction to the set of statements he had written is highlighted by two words: "love" and "truth." We now hear what Luther wrote as the introduction to his now famous Ninety-Five Theses.
- (A) "Out of love for the truth and the desire to bring it to light, the following propositions will be debated at Wittenberg, under presidency of the Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and of Sacred Theology, and the Lecturer on Ordinary on the same at that place. For that reason, he requests that those who cannot be present and debate orally with us may do so by letter."
- The challenges to Luther that resulted from his posting of the Ninety-Five Theses remained a constant factor throughout his life. A few years before his death, he wrote the words to the stirring hymn "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word." Both the text and the tune are attributed to the great reformer.

**HYMN** 

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB 655 st. 1



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt., Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

# FIRST READING Revelation 14:6–7

The Word is read...

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

**SENIOR CHOIR** 8:00 &11:00 services

"God is Our Refuge"

A. Pote

God is our refuge and strength;

A present help in time of Trouble.

Though the mountains shake in The heart of the sea, though

The waters roar and foam, we will not fear.

Come and behold the work of The Lord, the awesome acts of God.

He is in the midst of his people,

In all the earth.

He is the Word, we are his Hands, He will lead us.

He is the air, we are his song

We will celebrate his presence

All the day long.

He is the rain, we are the stones, He will cleanse us.

He is the air, we are his song,

We will celebrate his presence

All the day long.

THE EPISTLE READING

Romans 3:19-28

The Word is read...

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

# Stand

VERSE Luke 12:32

Alleluia. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL John 8:31–36

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

The Gospel is read...

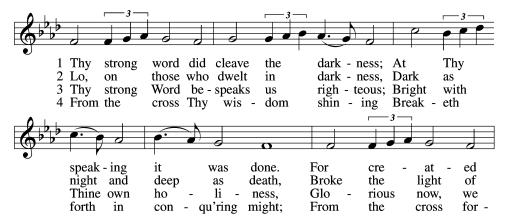
- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ

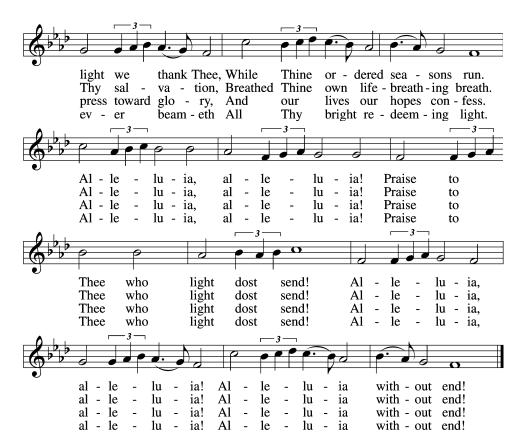
# Sit

### **HYMN**

"Thy Strong Word"

LSB 578





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! △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!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944, Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004811, Tune: Public domain

### **SERMON**

# **REFORMATION SEQUENCE**

Part 2

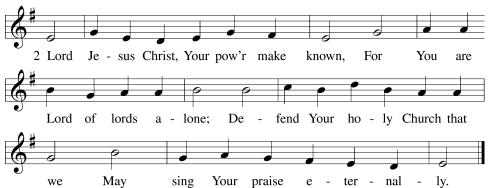
- P A major focus of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses was his concerns about the marketing of indulgences or letters of pardon for sins committed that were sold by traveling salesmen sent out by the church to raise funds for cathedral construction and other church projects. This money-raising strategy turned the forgiveness God gives freely through Jesus Christ into a commodity that could be purchased for the right price. Indulgences were readily available to wealthy people but not to the masses of common people—the kind of people that Luther knew well and preached to week by week. In Theses 36 and 37, he rightly asserts that God's forgiveness is equally available to all who repent.
- (A) "Every truly repentant Christian has plenary [full] remission of penalty and guilt, even without letters of pardon. Every true Christian, whether living or dead, has a part in all the benefits of Christ and the church, given him by God, even without letters of pardon."
- Luther's love for the truth and his desire to bring it to light led to dark times for those who saw the light of the Gospel in the writings of the great reformer. In the second stanza of "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," Luther prays that God would defend and protect the church and its people. His prayer in his day is our prayer today as well.

# Stand

**HYMN** 

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB 655 st. 2



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt., Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- Almighty God, we give You thanks and praise for all Your goodness and tender care, especially on this Reformation festival. Thank You for the gift of Your Son and for the revelation of Your will and grace. Implant Your Word in us, and give us fertile hearts to keep it and bring forth its good fruit in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

# **C** hear our prayer.

P God of grace, keep us steadfast in Your Word, and prevent our wayward hearts from following false gospels that lead us away from You. Provide Your Church with faithful pastors who preach in purity and joy, that we are saved by Your grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

# **C** hear our prayer.

A Mighty God, You have great power and yet You act with mercy. Teach those who lead us to use power rightly for the preservation of order, the accomplishment of justice, the protection of life and the defense of the weak. Give us wise, godly and faithful leaders who will follow Your commands and serve with integrity. Lord, in Your mercy,

# **C** hear our prayer.

- Gracious God, remember all who face adversity of any kind <u>[especially</u> \_\_\_\_\_\_\_]. Comfort them by Your Holy Spirit, that they would acknowledge their afflictions as the manifestation of Your fatherly will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Heavenly Father, You have given us the certainty of sins forgiven in Your Son, set forth as the propitiation by His blood to be received by faith. So lead us to eat and drink Your holy body and precious blood in repentance and faith, now and always. Lord, in Your mercy,

# **C** hear our prayer.

Preserve Your Church, O Lord, and each of us as members of Christ's Body, that we may not surrender the true Gospel for any reason, but be kept in this faith and fear throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage, until that day when we and all Your

people shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward You have prepared for us and all who have loved His appearing; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

### **OFFERING**

**VOLUNTARY** 

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

arr. C. Curtis

## Stand

OFFERTORY LSB 192

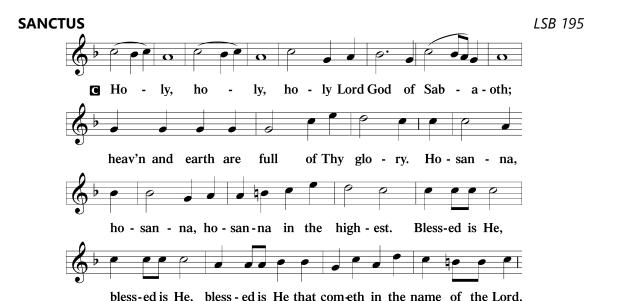


# **★ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

PREFACE LSB 194

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.

- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.





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

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We thank You for having called us as Your people who are kept by Your abiding care in this, our contentious world. Grant that all who partake of Christ's holy body and blood this day be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy. As we join at Your Table, grant that we be sanctified in body and soul and spirit and finally be granted our place in Your eternal kingdom. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My → body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **G** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your

ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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.

## **PAX DOMINI**

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

**AGNUS DEI** 

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

A - men.

LSB 198



NUNC DIMITTIS LSB 199



# **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your

Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **G** Amen.

## **REFORMATION SEQUENCE**

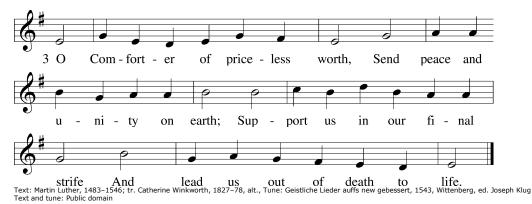
Part 3

- In the final two of the Ninety-Five Theses, Martin Luther gave an indication that he was well aware of the pathway that Christians would be taking as they followed the truth of the Gospel. No matter how contentious and challenging the world might be in a given era, the gracious guidance of Christ would be sufficient to lead His faithful flock to the joys of everlasting glory. Hear now Theses 94 and 95.
- (A) "Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace (Acts 14:22)."
- In Thesis 62, Luther shared the heart of his message in a most straightforward way, as he writes, "The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God." The closing stanza of "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" is a prayer for peace and unity to the Holy Spirit. With the psalmist we say to our loving Lord, "I will praise You with an upright heart. . . . I will keep Your statutes" (119:7a, 8a). Together we sing the last stanza of Luther's hymn of trust and faith.

### **HYMN**

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB 655 st. 3



19

### **BENEDICTION**

- 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.

Sit

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

- **P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE** 

"Thy Strong Word"

arr. G. Young

# **Acknowledgments**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 4.

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