

# REFORMATION SUNDAY

FIRST SUNDAY OF END TIME

STAND FIRM IN THE LORD



Christ Lutheran Church  
North St. Paul & Hugo, Minnesota  
November 01, 2020

**Welcome** to everyone—guests and members--on this Reformation Sunday! On **Reformation** we celebrate **the Spirit's work in reforming and preserving the church**. We express our gratitude that the Spirit's work is a continuing activity. He is always creating the church by his Word; he is always reforming the church by his Word; and he is always giving us the privilege of participating with him in both activities! By the gracious working of the Spirit we continue to rest on these Reformation truths: *SOLA GRATIA*, by grace alone; *SOLA FIDE*, by faith alone; and *SOLA SCRIPTURA*, by Scripture alone.

**FALL GROWTH GROUPS** Our fall worship and Bible study series is called, “*Thankful Heart, Thoughtful Life*.” Today, a **thankful heart and thoughtful life** is one that stands firm in God’s Word, no matter the situation, as Daniel did when he faced conniving politicians and hungry lions. Daniel stood firm and God, in his grace, chose to deliver him. God’s name received widespread honor and glory!

*God bless your worship!*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### OPENING HYMN

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word*  
CW #203



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 seek to o - ver - throw your  
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend your Chris - ten - dom that  
u - ni - ty on earth. Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And to de - stroy what he has done.  
we May sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
strife, And lead us out of death to life.

## INVOCATION

M In the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Reformation service, God again delivers to us love and forgiveness, power to be his people, and resolve to share his precious gospel of forgiveness with all people.

**C: We are not ashamed of the gospel.**

M: [St Paul wrote:] God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. <sup>8</sup>So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. (2 Timothy 1:7-9a)

**C: We are not ashamed of the gospel. We will testify about our Lord and his mighty deeds.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord, we are not ashamed of the gospel. And yet sometimes we live and act as if we are ashamed. Let us repent of our sins, rejoice in the comfort of God's full pardon, and recommit ourselves to the tasks he gives us.

For apathy in our mission of proclaiming your Good News,

**C: Lord, have mercy on us.**

M: For taking your precious Word and Sacraments for granted,

**C: Christ, have mercy on us.**

M: For failure to advance your work with generous gifts of treasure, time, and talent,

**C: Lord, have mercy on us.**

*Silence for reflection*

M: Holy and merciful Father,

**C: I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Daniel 6:10-12; 16-23

*Daniel stands firm in his faith despite enemies of the gospel.  
God miraculously delivers him from the mouths of lions.*

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. <sup>11</sup> Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. <sup>12</sup> 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.”... <sup>16</sup> 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!” <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. <sup>20</sup> 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?" <sup>21</sup> Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! <sup>22</sup> 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." <sup>23</sup> 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.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

John 8:31,32

*Alleluia. If you continue in my Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. Alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

Matthew 10:16-23

*Christ calls on his followers to rely on the Holy Spirit as we witness to a world hostile to the gospel. Help will come from above. Stand firm to the end!*

<sup>16</sup> "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup> Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. <sup>18</sup> On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. <sup>21</sup> "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup> You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> 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.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

# HYMN OF THE DAY

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

CW #200



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y shield  
 2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss  
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger to  
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
 ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant one  
 de - your us, We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
 have for it; He's by our side up - on the plain



That has us now o'er - tak - en. The old  
 Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's  
 With his good gifts and Spir - it. And do



e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;  
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,  
 prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,  
 what they will— Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—



Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;  
 The al - might - y Lord. And there's no oth - er God;  
 He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!  
 Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is won;



On earth is not his e - qual.  
 He holds the field for - ev - er.  
 One lit - tle word can fell him.  
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

**SERMON:** Daniel 6:10-12; 16-23.

**Stand Firm in the LORD!**

**1. Confess God without compromise 2. Bring glory to God's name!**

**OFFERING** *Gifts will be received as you leave.*

## **THE REFORMATION PRAYER**

**M:** Lord God, our refuge and strength, we gather to worship and praise you for your ongoing work of reformation in your Church.

**C:** **Lord, to you alone be glory.**

**M:** By your grace you sent your Spirit to call us to repentance. Your powerful gospel rescued us from rebellion and fills us with faith in you, the true and living God.

**C:** **For saving faith, Lord, to you alone be glory.**

**M:** In these last days, Lord Jesus Christ, protect your little flock. We are like sheep living among fierce wolves. Satan stalks us like a roaring lion. Defend us from false teachers who twist your Word to satisfy the latest longing.

**C:** **For wisdom and watchfulness under attack, hear our prayer, O Lord.**

**M:** Sovereign Lord, as election day draws near, we thank you for making us citizens of an earthly nation where we have the right to choose the leaders who govern us. Give us confidence that you rule over every nation for the good of your Church. Restrain forces of evil. Bless our election process and grant us responsible leaders who govern with wisdom and integrity. Provide stable government so that your Church can proclaim the saving gospel in peace. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

*We are a “sacramental” church. We believe that in Baptism and the Lord’s Supper God comes to us with forgiveness in very tangible means. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus’ body and blood are present in the sacrament and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor before communing. We don’t want to be presumptuous and put you in the position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we have had an opportunity to explain them. We do look forward to any opportunity to discuss with you the Christian faith. Preparation for Holy Communion is on page 12.*

### PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.



### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”




M: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

## LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

## DISTRIBUTION

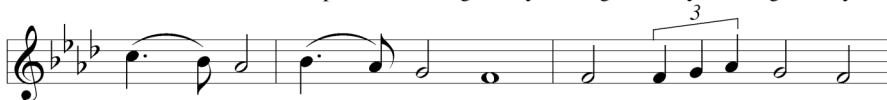
# DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*Thy Strong Word*

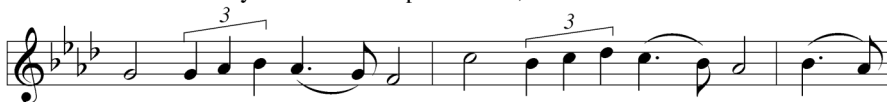
CW #280:1-5



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At thy  
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as  
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us right - eous; Bright with  
4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth  
5 Give us lips to sing thy glo - ry, Tongues thy



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
night and deep as death, Broke the light of  
thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we  
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -  
mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats to shout the



light we thank thee While thine or - dered sea -  
thy sal - va - tion, Breathed thine own life - giv -  
press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes  
ev - er beam - eth All thy bright re - deem -  
hope that fills us, Mouths to speak thy ho -



sons run. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise  
ing breath. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise  
con - fess. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise  
ing light. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise  
ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! May



to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!  
to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!  
to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!  
to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!  
the light which thou dost send Fill our songs with



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!

## CLOSING PRAYER

M: O Holy Spirit, you direct the Church in every age. Guide us in our generation to be bold in our witness to the Gospel and faithful and clear in our confession of the faith entrusted to us, freely and joyfully sharing the Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ, whom with you and the Father we worship, one God, now and forever,

C: Amen.

## BLESSING

M: 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.

C: Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*The Church's One Foundation*  
CW #538:1,2,5



The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus  
E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er  
Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult

Christ, her Lord; She is his new cre - a - tion By  
all the earth; Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One  
of her war She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of

wa - ter and the Word. From heav'n he came and  
Lord, one faith, one birth. One ho - ly name she  
peace for - ev - er - more Till with the vi - sion

sought her To be his ho - ly bride; With his own  
bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food, And to one  
glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest And the great

blood he bought her, And for her life he died.  
hope she press - es, With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

## PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.*

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