

# REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 25, 2020

10:00 a.m.

The Rev. Kurt Christenson, pastor

Bill Engel, organ

Paul Engel, Jan Neuhaus, & Billie Thompson, singers

Eric Sloniker, assisting minister

Mary Ann Horton, lector

Brian Jensen & Joe Slevcove, sound, video, & computer

*On All Saints Eve, 1517 in Wittenberg, Saxony the Reformation of The Church began. What was intended as points for debate became principles of division. Martin Luther dared to reimagine how the Gospel was revealed and became both reviled and revered. Our congregation's heritage and life today are based on that re-formation. Today we remember the past, celebrate the present, and look to God's desired future for First; in the bright and wondrous light of Grace, Scripture, and Faith.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me in this moment because I know it is for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations and conditions.

I let go of my desire for security. I let go of my desire for approval. I let go of my desire for control.

I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person, or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God  
and the healing action and grace within.

*Welcome Prayer by Fr. Thomas Keating taught to me by Ruthann Maxwell, who turned 95 this past week!*

☐ **SOLA GRATIA** ☐

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

### A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
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  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system covers the first three lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the remaining lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.      The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 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  
 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 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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**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.**

## □ SOLA SCRIPTURA □

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

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. 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. 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. 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.

### **EPISTLE LESSON:** Romans 3:19-28

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. 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.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 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; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***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.*** (John 8:31-32)

## GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 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’?”

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

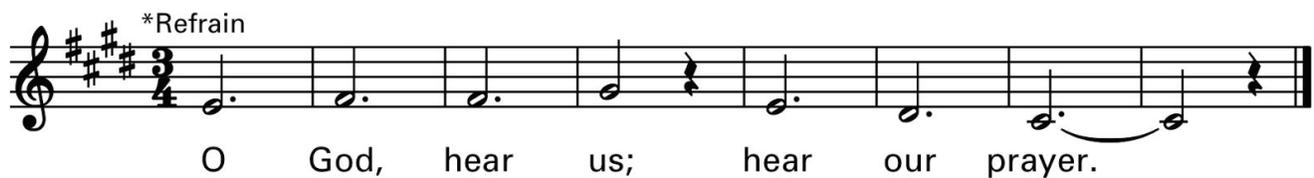
## SERMON

Pastor Kurt

## □ SOLA FIDE □

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*\*sung after the prayers:*



© 1984, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## OFFERING

[Give Here](#)

## OFFERING PRAYER

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have**

**gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **THE EUCHARIST**

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.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

### **HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

## CLOSING HYMN

### Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are arranged in three columns, corresponding to three different verses. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, the second system covers the next two lines, and the third system covers the final two lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

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

## **BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

Gracious God; Through the testimony of the apostles, you have stirred up the gifts of your grace. Through the witness of Martin Luther, other saints and martyrs of the Reformation era, and saints and angels throughout the generations, you have recalled us to the life of faith. Rejoicing in this expansive communion of the faithful, send us out now into the world enriched by your Word of grace and faith so that ☩ all may know you, and your justice reign.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

*In the name of Christ. Amen.*

## **POSTLUDE**