

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020, 9:00 am

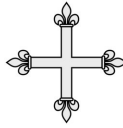


Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

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

Prelude

Fantaisie on A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Denis Bédard (b. 1950)

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination may follow.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

ELW 504



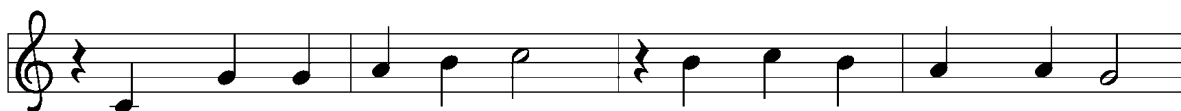
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



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

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.
There is one body and one Spirit;
There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all.

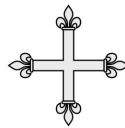
Blessed be God who sustains and protects God's holy Church.
And blessed be God who guides and confirms us in our faith. Amen. Alleluia!

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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

First 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.

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.

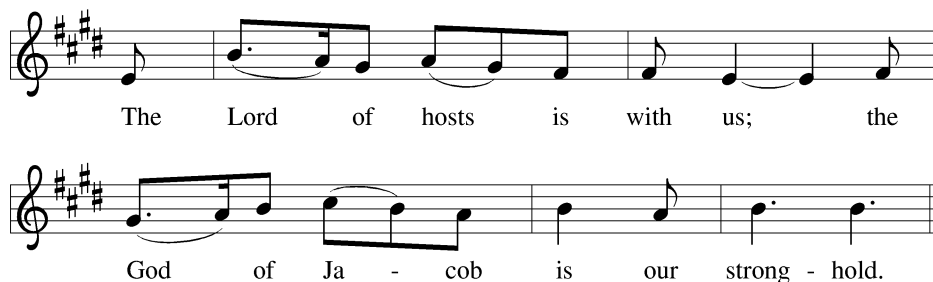
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

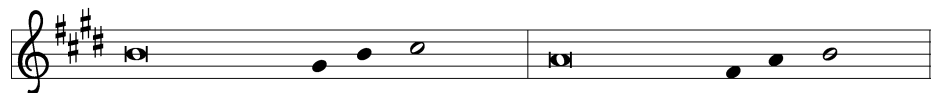
Psalm 46

*The choir introduces the refrain; the congregation repeats it. The choir then alternates with the congregation on the verses. Subsequent refrains are sung only once by all, at the places indicated by **R**.*

Refrain



Tone



- ¹God is our ref-¹uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.
- ²**Therefore we will not fear, though the¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths¹ of the sea;**
- ³though its waters¹ rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble¹ with its tumult.
- ⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-¹y of God,
the holy habitation of¹ the Most High.**
- ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall¹ not be shaken;
God shall help it at the¹ break of day.
- ⁶**The nations rage, and the¹ kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth¹ melts away. R**
- ⁷The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.
- ⁸**Come now, regard the works¹ of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up-¹ on the earth;**
- ⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in¹ all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the¹ shields with fire.
- ¹⁰**"Be still, then, and know that¹ I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted¹ in the earth."**
- ¹¹The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold. R

Second 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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The Cantor will sing the Alleluia refrain first, please sing the second time. After the verse, please sing only once.



Refrain reproduced from *Gospel Acclamations: Autumn*, © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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Cantor Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Cantor If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (John 8:31-21)

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the eighth chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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'?"

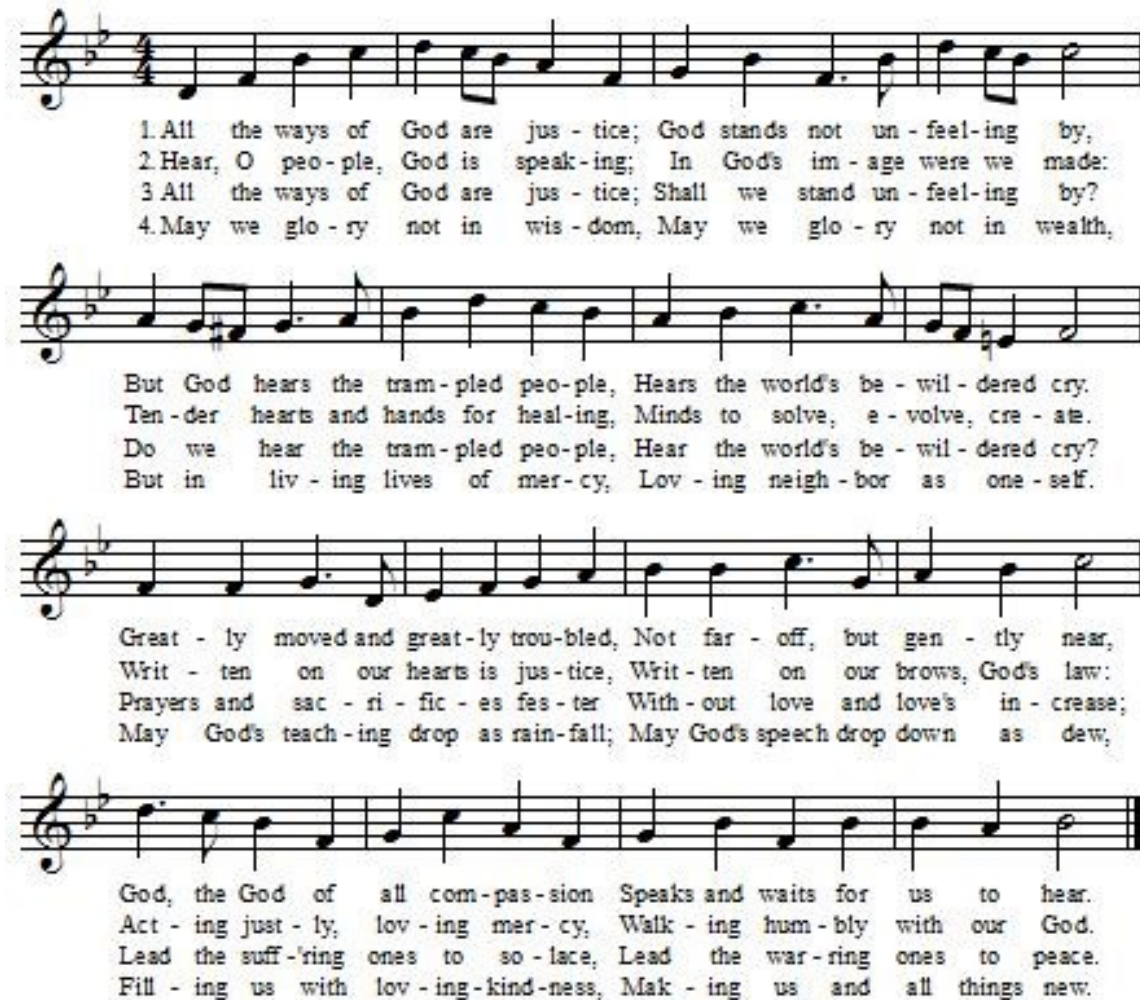
Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Dr. Wee

Hymn of the Day



1. All the ways of God are jus - tice; God stands not un - feel - ing by,
2. Hear, O peo - ple, God is speak - ing; In God's im - age were we made:
3. All the ways of God are jus - tice; Shall we stand un - feel - ing by?
4. May we glo - ry not in wis - dom, May we glo - ry not in wealth,

But God hears the tram - pled peo - ple, Hears the world's be - wil - dered cry.
Ten - der hearts and hands for heal - ing, Minds to solve, e - volve, cre - ate.
Do we hear the tram - pled peo - ple, Hear the world's be - wil - dered cry?
But in liv - ing lives of mer - cy, Lov - ing neigh - bor as one - self.

Great - ly moved and great - ly trou - bled, Not far - off, but gen - tly near,
Writ - ten on our hearts is jus - tice, Writ - ten on our brows, God's law:
Prayers and sac - ri - fic - es fes - ter With - out love and love's in - crease;
May God's teach - ing drop as rain - fall; May God's speech drop down as dew,

God, the God of all com - pas - sion Speaks and waits for us to hear.
Act - ing just - ly, lov - ing mer - cy, Walk - ing hum - bly with our God.
Lead the suff - ring ones to so - lace, Lead the war - ring ones to peace.
Fill - ing us with lov - ing - kind - ness, Mak - ing us and all things new.

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FORGOTTEN LUTHER
8787D

*Commissioned in thanksgiving for Dr. Paul Wee: prophet, advocate for justice, peace, and grace for all.
Premiered at the Forgotten Luther Symposium on October 25-26, 2019*

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Set free by the truth of God's gracious love, we pray for the church, the world,
and all of God's good creation.

After each portion of the prayers:

Hear us, O God.

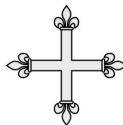
Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Into your hands, faithful God, we place ourselves and our prayers,
spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



Thanksgiving

Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at saintluke.us then click *Giving* or on the Give Plus app. You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Music at the offering

I know my faith is founded
On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;
And this my faith confessing,
Unmoved I stand on His sure Word.
Our reason cannot fathom
The truth of God profound;
Who trusts in human wisdom
Relies on shifting ground.
God's Word is all-sufficient,
It makes divinely sure;
And trusting in its wisdom,
My faith shall rest secure.

In faith, Lord, let me serve You;
Though persecution, grief, and pain
Should seek to overwhelm me,
Let me a steadfast trust retain;
And then at my departure
Lord, take me home to You,
Your riches to inherit
As all You said holds true,
In life and death, Lord, keep me
Until Your heav'n I gain,
Where I by Your great mercy
The end of faith attain.

Increase my faith, dear Savior,
For Satan seeks by night and day
to rob me of this treasure
And take my hope of bliss away.
But, Lord, with You beside me,
I shall be undismayed;
And led by Your good Spirit,
I shall be unafraid.
Abide with me, O Savior,
A firmer faith bestow;
Then I shall bid defiance
to ev'ry evil foe.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756
Music: NUN LOB, MEIN SEEL arr. Mark Schweizer

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of goodness, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We open our hands and return to you what you have first given us. Accept our offering as a token of our abiding devotion and love. Use these gifts to bring peace, justice and comfort to the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Let us pray.

Holy One, Jesus Christ, we know that you are as truly present in our reaching out to one another as in the sacrament of the table. We love you at the heart of all things, and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot gather together to receive you in that sacrament, come and abide spiritually in our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace. Never let us fear that we are ever separated from you, from one another, from your creation. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

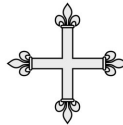
The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga a nosotros tu Reino
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia
Perdona nuestras ofensas
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**



Sending

Blessing

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice of the Gospel, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW 843



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

from *Grand Partita on Ein Feste Burg*
 IV. The World They Still Shall Let Remain (Final)

Karl Osterland (b. 1956)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

PREACHING MINISTER

Dr. Paul Wee

ASSISTING MINISTERS

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Members of the Schola Cantorum

THE FLOWERS about the Saint Luke altar today are given by Justin Hyde and Alexandra Moses in honor of Carter Matthew Hyde's Confirmation at the 11:30 a.m. service, by Jeff and Melissa Groen in honor of all the Confirmands, and by Pastors Miller and Zawistoski in thanksgiving for all Confirmation teachers.

WE WELCOME AS OUR PREACHER FOR THE 9:00 SERVICE DR. PAUL WEE. It would not be Reformation at Saint Luke without Dr. Wee, a friend of this congregation. Dr. Wee has come to us literally as Martin Luther throughout the years and has shared God's word with us on several occasions. Dr. Wee has worked in eastern and central Europe, primarily with faith-based communities, and served as assistant general secretary for International Affairs and Human Rights with the Geneva-based Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and initiated talks between four armed opposition groups and the Government of Guatemala that resulted in the Oslo Accords of 1990. A resident now of Washington State, until recently Dr. Wee was professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, and earlier served as senior pastor at Reformation Lutheran Church, Capitol Hill. The past few years Dr. Wee has been a significant leader behind the Forgotten Luther Series, several symposia featuring the socio-economic facets of Martin Luther's witness. Saint Luke hosted the symposium Forgotten Luther III in 2019. Dr. Wee is the author of numerous articles and several books, including *American Destiny* and co editor of *The Forgotten Luther*.

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