

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MISSION STATEMENT:

*In response to God's love for us, we SERVE God,
SUPPORT Christian fellowship,
And SPREAD the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people*

Volume 76

October 25, 2020

No. 43

REFORMATION DAY (Observed)

9:00 AM

AS WE GATHER – Martin Luther's great hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is based on Psalm 46. When the psalm was first written, it gave courage to God's Old Testament people. Centuries later, when Luther wrote the hymn, the world was filled with plagues and death, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. Further, neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the government accepted the teachings of the reformers. Now, in our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists, political polarization, and ecclesiastical division. Because of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, we need not fear. Our gracious God is a very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the powers of the created world around us and the forces of evil from every source. From His throne flow streams of mercy to give us confident joy. We know that in the end "the kingdom ours remaineth."

PRESERVICE MUSIC

"The Church's One Foundation"

"Amazing Grace"
by John Eggert

WELCOME

♩ [Means please stand; ♪ Means please be seated]

♩ OPENING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation



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 The 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-sun-der, 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,
 O 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 and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 46:1a, 2a; Romans 3:23-24a; John 8:31b-32

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.* **C** **Amen.**
- P** *God is our refuge and strength;*
- C** **therefore we will not fear.**
- P** *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
- C** **and are justified by His grace as a gift.**
- P** *If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples,*
- C** **and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Incorporating Psalm 46:4, 7, 11

- P** *Lord of hosts,*
- C** **hear our confession of sins and grant us Your mercy and forgiveness. We have not trusted in Your promised protection and strength but have looked elsewhere for help and refuge. You alone have provided the remedy for that which truly causes our separation, troubles, and death. For the sake of Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from Your present help. We ask it in the name of Jesus.**
- P** *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. Because that river of grace and power has flowed over us in our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, in spite of our fear, the LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. By grace God has created each of us and everything that exists, and in the person of His Son entered our history and paid for our every sin and sin itself. In Christ's resurrection, God's promises have been made sure. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C** **Amen. The LORD of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!**

INTROIT

Psalm 46

- P** *God is our refuge and strength,*
- C** **a very present help in trouble.**
- P** *Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,*
- C** **though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**
- P** *though its waters roar and foam,*
- C** **though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

- P** *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,*
C **the holy habitation of the Most High.**
P *God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;*
C **God will help her when morning dawns.**
P *The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;*
C **He utters His voice, the earth melts.**
P *The LORD of hosts is with us;*
C **the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
P *Come, behold the works of the Lord,*
C **how he has brought desolations on the earth.**
P *He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;*
C **he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.**
P *"Be still, and know that I am God.*
C **I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"**
P *The LORD of hosts is with us;*
C **The God of Jacob is our fortress.**
- All: 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.**
- P** *God is our refuge and strength,*
C **a very present help in trouble.**

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** *The Lord be with you.* **C** **And also with you.**
P *Let us pray.*

All: O God, our refuge and strength, always present in trouble, silence our fears when Your good creation seems out of control and evil appears to run rampant. Like the dawning of a new day, dispel the darkness of our hearts and renew confident faith in Your constant presence and gracious protection; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

MEDITATION *"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"* Piano Duet

FIRST LESSON *Revelation 14:6-7*

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

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

EPISTLE LESSON *Romans 3:19-28*

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

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

ANTHEM *"My Worth Is Not in What I Own"* Trio

ALLELUIA VERSE

All: 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*

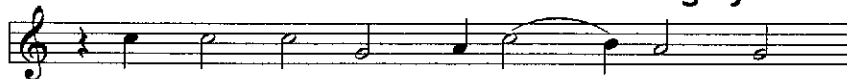
- P** *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.* **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

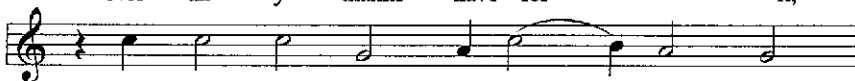
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



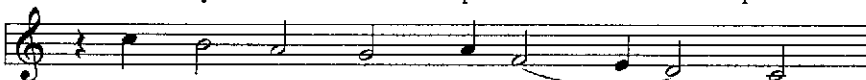
1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vou - us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



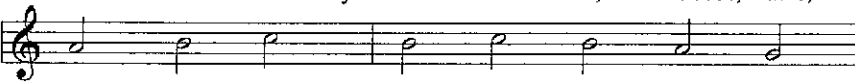
He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



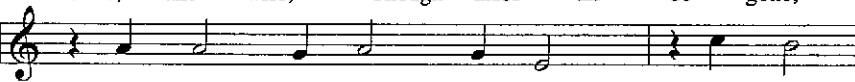
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main - eth.

SERMON

☩ CATECHISM

Incorporating Psalm 46 and the Apostles' Creed

- P** *Our faith is in God the Father, the Almighty Creator of all that exists. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way.*
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, who has made me and all creatures. He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.**
- P** *Our faith is in God the Son, whose sacrifice on the cross opens to us eternal life in God's eternal presence. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;*
- C** **I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**
- P** *Our faith is in God the Holy Spirit, whose gift of faith gives us eternal peace with God. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.*
- C** **I believe in the Holy Spirit, who in the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Incorporating Psalm 46

- P** *Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for all people in their varied circumstances. O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, strengthen the Church here and wherever it gathers around Your Word and celebrates the blessed Sacraments. Grant confident faith to clergy and laity, pastors in congregations and missionaries in distant lands, elders in the faith and newly baptized alike. Help us to put all our trust in Your protection and power. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.*
- P** *Strong Creator, wherever people call out to You as the earth gives way, mountains move into the heart of the sea, and mountains tremble, hear their cries and keep them safe. Awaken courage and wisdom in those who search and rescue, those who provide physical and spiritual counsel, and those who offer long-term support of body and life. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.*
- P** *O Holy Spirit, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, use the earthly powers that be to move the nations and their leaders to seek ways toward peace with their neighbors and stability within their borders. You, who make wars cease to the end of the earth, provide courage and compassion to all who work for peace and protection as they are deployed abroad and all who maintain concord and order within our communities. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.*
- P** *Gracious God, stream joy and gladness to those who wait for the dawning of a new day, those dealing with long-term ills, unemployment, discrimination, unjust imprisonment, strife in their families, and the loss of loved ones, [especially . . .]. Assure them that You are with them, even now a very present help in trouble. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.*
- P** *Lord of hosts, worthy to be exalted among the nations, into Your almighty hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray. Hear our prayer for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C** Amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

P *O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

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.**

BENEDICTION

P *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you His peace.* **C** **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved



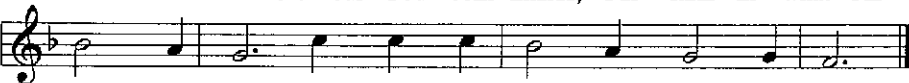
1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip-ture ev - er false-hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
What in His Word our God com-mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

5. **By grace to timid hearts that tremble,**
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?
6. **By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;**
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

PANNOUNCEMENTS/POSTLUDE **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"** by J. Wayne Kerr

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