

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 25 & 28, 2026

As We Gather

Last Sunday we heard that Christ sends His Church to serve with the mercy He first gives us. On Reformation Sunday, Jesus tells us where that freedom begins: the Son sets sinners free indeed. We cannot earn our place in the Father's house. Christ's death and resurrection secure it, and His Word gives it to us. Lutherans have long confessed this good news: faith receives God's gift, and love serves the neighbor. Today we thank God for that heritage and ask how we may hand it on.

✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

Hymn A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (LSB 656) *sts. 1, 3*

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences *Psalm 119:89–90a; John 8:36; Hebrews 13:8*

P Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.
C **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**

P If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
C **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

Confession and Absolution *Psalm 119:90b; John 8:34; Psalm 119:94a; John 8:31*

P Lord, You have established the earth, and it stands fast.
C **All creation is sustained by Your Word and made to serve Your holy purposes.**

P And yet, we can ignore or defy Your Word and fail to pursue Your purposes.

C **Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin, and we seek Your freedom.**

P For our sins of thought, word, and deed, for our action and inaction, for our inborn sinfulness and failures of faith, we beg for mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C **I am Yours; save me.**

Pause for silent reflection

P Jesus speaks, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples." The blood of Christ is put forward as our propitiation, that repentant sinners might receive the righteousness of God. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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.

Kyrie *LSB 204*

C **Lord, have mercy;**
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

C **1 To God on high be glory**
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.
Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation

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

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
Eternal Son of the Father, You deliver slaves to sin into the kingdom of Your righteousness. Defeat our spiritual enemies and declare Your victory that we might walk in faith and freedom as those justified by grace; in Your name, O Christ, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

First Reading *Revelation 14:6–7*

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *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 stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

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

Alleluia *LSB 205*

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Verse *Luke 12:32*

C **These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia *LSB 205*

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel *John 8:31–36*

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

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

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

Hymn Salvation unto Us Has Come (LSB 555) *sts. 1, 6–7*

Series: Set Free to Live

Sermon: The Freedom of a Christian *John 8:31–36*

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayer of the Church (Hear our prayer) *Psalm 119:89–90*

P ... Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

Offering

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus (LSB 729) *sts. 1, 4–6*

1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79
Text: Public domain



✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

We follow the liturgy on Pages 208-212 in the hymnal.

Preface *LSB 208*

Proper Preface

Sanctus *LSB 208*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

Distribution Hymns

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (LSB 761)
Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice (LSB 556)
Thy Strong Word (LSB 578)
A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth (LSB 438)

Sit

Lord's Supper Dismissal

P Now may this eating and drinking, of our Savior's precious body and blood, Strengthen you, preserve you, and keep you in the one true Christian faith that leads you to eternal life. Know in peace, and joy, that your sins are T forgiven you.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Benedicamus *LSB 212*

Benediction

Closing Hymn

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655)

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