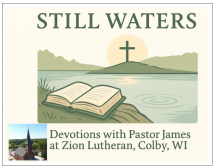
Date: October 25, 2026
Suggested Reading: John 8:31–36
Text: John 8:36 ESV
So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.



When the Door Stands Open

We know the frustration of standing outside a locked door. We check our pockets, search the car, and try the handle again. Wishing harder does not unlock the door. We need someone who can open it.

Our guilt can feel like that locked door. We remember a sharp word, a broken promise, or a grudge we keep feeding. We promise to do better, but yesterday's sin remains. God's commands tell the truth: we cannot excuse our sin or earn our way back into His favor. We need a Savior.

Jesus does not leave us outside. He takes our sins to the cross and declares, "It is finished!" His resurrection assures us sin and death have not defeated Him. Our freedom rests on His completed work, not on how successfully we have improved ourselves.

When we hear the Holy Absolution in worship, Christ's forgiveness comes to us through the pastor's voice. In our Baptism, God has joined us to Jesus' death and resurrection. We have His promise to cling to when our feelings accuse us.

We still struggle. Forgiveness does not erase every painful memory or remove every temptation today. Yet we need not live as prisoners of yesterday. We can confess, receive forgiveness, and begin again. Freed from earning God's love, we can ask forgiveness and serve our neighbors. Our Savior has opened the door. We belong to Him.

Prayer:
Lord Jesus, forgive our sins and quiet our accusing hearts with Your promise. Keep us in Your Word, and free our hands to serve the neighbors You have given us. Amen.

Thought for the Day:
Our freedom rests on Jesus' finished work. Today we can begin again in His forgiveness.

Hymn: LSB 555 — Salvation unto Us Has Come, stanzas 6–7

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