



October 29, 2023 Reformation Sunday

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit,
and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold**.*

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

we GATHER

*The Latin text of
this **Prelude**
anthem
translates: "Not
to us, oh Lord,
but to your name
give the glory."*

Prelude — "Non Nobis Domine"

William Byrd, Setting by Walter H. Barnes

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 513

"Listen, God Is Calling"
Setting for Brass by Emily Bruflat

***Confession and Forgiveness**

*We begin this
morning centered
on the call to
"listen." We listen
to God's
invitation
through scripture
- "share the good
news that [Jesus]
came to save us
and set us free."*

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands
we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches
beyond all understanding. God's
compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way
for us. In ✠ Christ, we are already and
always forgiven.
Amen.

***Greeting, Kyrie, Cantic of Praise** — *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg 147 & 149*

***Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from Jeremiah — 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.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46 — sing refrain to begin and as indicated; psalm sung responsively by verse



Refrain:



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.

God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High. Refrain**

God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**

The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

**Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
**“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**
The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. *Refrain*

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans— Romans 3:19-28

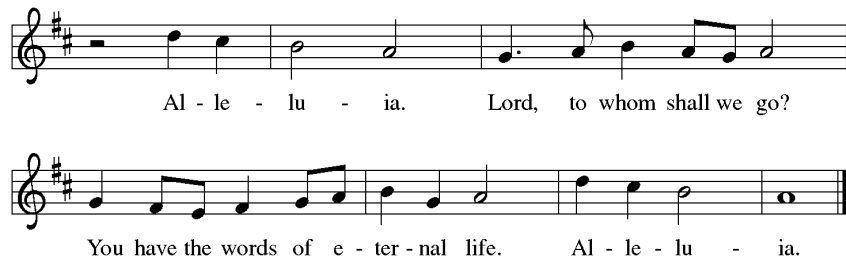
Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

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.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel — John 8:31-36

The Gospel of John, the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

Children’s Time — “Somebody’s Knocking”

Traditional Spiritual
Youth Choir; Sarah Chambers, director; Brenda McHugh, piano

Sermon

Pastor Chris Culuris

*In the gospel,
Jesus speaks
about knowing
the truth by
continuing in
Jesus's word. We
sing this song of
praise and prayer
for God's word,
used as a guide
toward Christ and
toward our
neighbor.*

*Hymn — no. 514

“O Word of God Incarnate”

*The Nicene Creed

P: Let us confess our faith together:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Prayers of Intercession

A: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Offering

Music During Offering
“Ein feste burg”

Setting by Richard Walters
Brass Ensemble

*Offering Prayer

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

we SHARE the meal

***The Great Thanksgiving** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 152*

***“Holy, Holy, Holy”** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 153*

*Words of Institution and Lord’s Prayer

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We remember Christ, our Savior, who 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.**

*Invitation to the Table

P: Jesus invites you to this table with no exception. Come, eat and live.

Distribution of Communion

“Lamb of God” — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 154*

Hymn — no. 878

“Soli Deo Gloria”
Brass Setting by Jeremy Bankson

Hymn — no. 654

“The Church’s One Foundation”

Prayer After Communion

P: Blessed be your name, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

Celebration of Ordination Anniversaries

Communion will be served at the rail this morning; the ushers will guide you forward. We sing a hymn of praise - for God, for prophets and teachers, for music, and ultimately declaring boldly “Glory to God alone!”

we are SENT to serve the world

In this Sending Hymn, God is depicted as a fortress, which can also be a sanctuary or a stronghold. How is God a sanctuary or fortress for you? How has this changed or "reformed" over time?

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 504

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
Brass Setting by John Ferguson

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God!**

***Postlude** — "The Church's One Foundation"

Setting by Jeremy Bankson
Brass Ensemble

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Brett Petersen, Cole

Buffington

Musician: Brass Ensemble; Youth Choir

Assisting Minister: Rebekah Roemhildt

Greeter: Gabriela Roemhildt, Colton Loken

Reader: Nancy Timm

Ushers: Bill Kautt

Communion Preparers: Banks Family

Communion Servers: Nancy Timm

Bread Bakers: Diane Stewart

Acolytes: Charlotte Loken/Avery Loken

Announcements

- We celebrate the ordination anniversaries of Bob Stenson (55 years), Steve Kidder (50 years), and Mary Gaebler (20 years)! Thank you for your service to the church and for your many ministries. May God continue to show up in surprising ways throughout your lives!
- First Forum today following worship in the Chapel: Kathryn Lozada will speak on Isaiah's work.
- It's Holiday Grocery Voucher time! If you would like to give to this worthwhile cause please drop a check made to FLC with Holiday Voucher in the memo line before Nov 23. Help make a holiday meal possible for a needy family!
- The Second Annual Soup Cook-Off & Dessert Auction will be Nov 19 after worship in the dining hall. Entry forms are in the gathering space. Entries can be emailed or dropped off in the office.
- The organ recital scheduled for today has been canceled! Please help spread the word!
- Next Sunday, Nov 5 is the special All Saints cantata! During the prelude, you can bring a photo or memento in honor or in memory of a saint to tables set up around the baptismal font and/or to light a candle for them. During communion, you will have a chance to light a candle to take to your seat as we sing the final hymn with the saints.

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Claire Cardwell, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Carol Peterson, Sarah Smith, Gretchen Bray, Bob and Kay Moline, Takhmina White, Allison Ellingson, and Jim Wendroth.
- We pray for the family of Gene Roemhildt, who died on Oct 15. The funeral and visitation will be on Nov 9 at FLC.
- We pray for the family of Helen Carter, who died on October 19. Her service was held here at FLC on Friday, Oct 27.