



October 27, 2024 ☩ 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!

“God’s Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people.”

P: Indicates the presider throughout the service. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister throughout the service.

we gather

Prelude - No One Is Alone - Stephen Sondheim

Words of Welcome

***Hymn** — no.651

“Oh, Praise the Gracious Power”

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

***Apostolic Greeting**

P: 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.**

***Kyrie** – page 203, from *ELW, Setting 10*

***Hymn of Praise** — page 204, from *ELW, Setting 10*

*Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

Temple Talk- John Nadeau, Ushers

we LISTEN and RESPOND

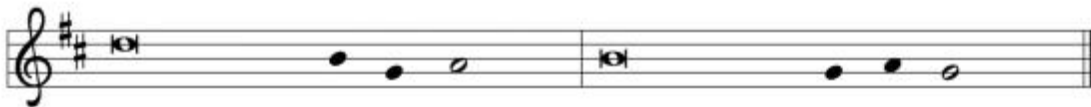
A Reading from the prophet Jeremiah — Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

31 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. 32 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. 33 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. 34 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 -the psalm will be sung responsively today by whole verse.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

- 1 God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
- 2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
- 3 though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- 4 **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
- 5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- 6 **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.

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

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

9 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.

10 **“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**

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

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans — 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.

19 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. 20 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.

21 But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 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; 26 it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 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** — page 205, *from ELW, Setting 10*

***Gospel — John 8:31-36**

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

The Gospel of John, the 8th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 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’?”

34 Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

Children’s Sermon - “Tangled Up”

Steve Kidder

*Hymn — no. 654

“The Church’s One Foundation”

***The Nicene Creed**

P: Together let us profess our faith:

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**

AM: Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature’s cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate change. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond especially all who suffer the effects of war. Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, in Christ's resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

Amen.

Offering - Bell Choir



***Offering Prayer**

AM: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

we SHARE the meal

***Great Thanksgiving & Preface** — page 206, *from ELW, Setting 10*

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise..... (*Here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, Holy, Holy** — page 207, *from ELW, Setting 10*

*Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

P: 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.

As God's beloved children, we pray as Jesus taught us saying: **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 welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving Holy Communion at the rail today.*

"Lamb of God" — page 208, *from ELW, Setting 10*

Hymn — no 491 -

"Come, Let Us Eat"

Hymn — no 487

"What Feast of Love"

Prayer After Communion

P: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

we go in peace

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 504

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

Amen.

AM: Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude** - How Firm a Foundation - arranged by Michael Ware

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Assisting Minister: Rebekah Roemhildt
Musician: Kim Beecher

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, John Nadeau, Ivy
McHugh
Bread Baker: Diane Stewart
Audio/Video: Brett Petersen, Dylan Greenig

Communion Preparers: Mary Thompson
Communion Servers: Sharon Domeier, Cindy
Nadeau
Acolytes: Luke Chambers, Olive Chambers

Announcements

- Updates: The boiler is finally fixed! The roster for our church directory has been sent to the United Church Directory Company. Now we are waiting for them to send us a draft copy to proof-read before it can be printed. Final repairs on the organ are being made.
- Recently the southeastern part of the United States has been devastated by two hurricanes. If you would like to go online and donate to Lutheran Disaster Response please use this link:
<https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>
- Wednesdays at First: 5:30pm Dinner Starts, 6:00 Children's Music in the Chapel, 6:30 Worship in the Sanctuary, 7:00 Education in the Classrooms, 7:00 Bell Choir, 7:30 Youth Group (1st Wednesdays). Please spread the word and invite a friend to come! Chicken and Mashed Potatoes will be served on Wednesday, Oct. 30th.
- The FLC Nominating Committee is looking for members who are interested in serving the congregation in various elected positions. We are looking for: 2 members for Council (three-year term), 2 youth members for Council (one-year term), 3 members for Synod Assembly (June), and 6 members for Conference meeting (February). If you are interested, please let Amy Pehrson (amyrpehrson@gmail.com) or the church office know. Elections will take place at the congregational meeting in December.
- "Gather Us In" 2024 Equipping Congregations Day will focus on worship and will take place on Sat., Nov. 2nd, at Peace Lutheran Church, New London from 8:30a.m. - 3 p.m. Registration is \$30 and lunch will be provided. Check out www.swmnelca.org.
- Scandian Grove Lutheran Church will have their Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 2nd. Serving from 11a.m. - 3 p.m.
- On Wednesday, Oct. 30, join Annalise Rivas during Adult Education at 7:00pm in the Pioneer Parlor. We will be discussing and reflecting on this month's *Ripples of Generosity* theme: Thoughts.

Prayers

We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Karen Wendroth, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Gretchen Bray, Jim Wendroth, Dale Rettke, Dorothy Lutz, Jan Holte, Byron Larson, Lenore Schnobrich, Judy Fienen, David Ribar, Harvey Kane, Erika Schuldt and Laurie Dietrich.

- Please pray for the families and friends of: Terri Bartlett, Steve Mikelson, Emil Trnka, Patricia McLain and Clint Braun who have died recently.

