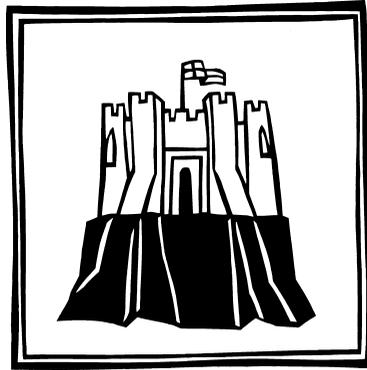


# REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 25, 2020



*Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**527 WASHINGTON STREET**

**READING, PA 19601**

**(610) 374-4861**

**WWW.TRINITYREADING.ORG**

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

**P** Presiding Minister    **A** Assisting Minister    **C** Congregation

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Martin Luther

Trinity Brass – Daniel Graf and Hannah Long, trumpet;  
Peter Graf and David Himes, trombone; Karen Eddinger, organ

## GREETING

**P**     The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C**     **And also with you.**

## LITANY FOR UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

**P**     As we celebrate the Reformation, let us pray for reconciliation within the body  
of Christ.

For the church that in every age has taught the faith to children, shared the  
sacraments, and fed the poor,

**C**     **O God, we give you thanks.**

- P** For the times when the church has let the human urge for power and self-preservation prevail over the will of God,
- C** **O God, we give you thanks.**
- P** For those who work to create unity among all the churches and seek to find ways to walk together,
- C** **O God, we give you thanks.**
- P** For us, when we promote sectarianism above our unity as children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ,
- C** **O God, we give you thanks.**
- P** For Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon and those in every age who bring reformation and renewal to the church when it has become complacent,
- C** **O God, we give you thanks.**
- P** For those instances when we have driven out sisters and brothers who had a different vision of God's will for us,
- C** **O God, we give you thanks.**
- P** For the diversity of expression in our many churches and denominations and for the spirit of liberation that allows the church to continually renew itself,
- C** **O God, we give you thanks.**
- P** For the church, that we may be worthy and willing to work at healing divisions among all worshiping communities throughout the whole world, we pray in the name of the God who is Creator of all.
- C** **Amen**

# GATHERING HYMN

## 504 A Mighty Fortress

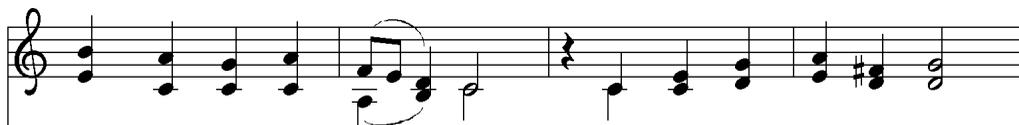
EIN FESTE BURG



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat-'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe!      With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he!      Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage!      His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse,      though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight.      On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored.      He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail!      One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day.      The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. 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.
- C** Amen

## FIRST READING: 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.*

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.

*After the reading:*

- A** Word of God, word of life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 46

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

Based on Ein feste Burg  
Martin Luther/Setting by Tomas J. Fleming

Beth Welz, soloist

*God is our refuge and our strength, our ever-present aid,  
and though the mountains be removed, we shall not be afraid;  
Though hills amidst the seas be cast, though foaming waters roar,  
Yea, though the mighty billows shake the mountains on the shore.*

*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
A river flows whose streams make glad the city of our God  
the holy place wherein the Lord Most high has his abode;  
since God is in the midst of her, unloved her walls shall stand,  
for God will be her early help, when trouble is at hand.*

*A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.*

*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

### **SECOND READING:** 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.*

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.

*After the reading:*

- A** Word of God, word of life.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 590      Salvation Unto Us Has Come, stanzas 1 and 5



Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and fa - vor;  
All bless - ing hon - or, thanks, and praise to Fath - er, Son, and Spir - it!



good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and save us nev - er.  
Lord, you have saved us by your grace; all glor - y to your mer - it!



Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who did for all the world a - tone,  
O tri - une God in heav'n a - bove, you have re - vealed your sav - ing love;



our on - ly me - di - a - tor.  
your bless - ed name we hal - low.

## THE HOLY 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 Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☑ **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. 36So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

*After the reading:*

- Ⓛ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ⓐ Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

591 That Priceless Grace

THAT PRICELESS GRACE

1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less  
 2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less  
 3 That pain-ful death, that pain-ful death, that pain-ful  
 4 That pre-cious word, that pre-cious word, that pre-cious

grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.  
 blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.  
 death took sins a - way: Je - sus' death is price-less grace.  
 word, which brought me light: Je - sus' word is price-less grace.

That price - less grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949  
 Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional  
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## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**A** Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world,  
and all those in need.

*A brief silence...*

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unite it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. We pray for Christ Episcopal and Fr. John; for Nativity Lutheran and Pr. Carol; for Zion Lutheran and Pr. June; for Trinity's staff – Pr. Alan, Deaconess Deborah, Karen, Peter, Matt, Rachel, Dave and Dee; for Common Ground, Pr. Tom and Michael; and for the ELCA and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and our new bishop elect. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

- A** As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy ,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant your healing touch to those who are ill, especially Janet, Russ, CJ, Ronald, Dick, Darryl, Fred, Cathy, Pete, Kate, Richard, David, Darlene, Claudia, and all who have been exposed to or infected by Covid-19. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen**

## PEACE

☞ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☞ And also with you.

## OFFERING MEDITATION

### ANTHEM

God Alone Be Praised: *Ad Lucem*

Susan R. Briehl, after Psalm 46

Zebulon M. Highben

*Oceans rise, the coastland trembles; mountains melt and dry earth crumbles.*

*All the world with longing groans.*

*Love abides; this gracious promise is our help, our hope and solace.*

*God's strong word is solid ground.*

*Nations rage, the empire falters; seeking refuge, exiles wander.*

*Walls and weapons rise from fear.*

*Through this wilderness a river flows to heal and bless us ever.*

*God the crucified dwells here.*

*Come and see; God's mercy gathers all that sin and grief have shattered.*

*Life from fields of death is raised.*

*Peace, be still; let prideful thunder yield to songs of joy and wonder.*

*God and God alone be praised.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen

## LORD'S PRAYER

**A** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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, the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen

## BLESSING

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen

# SENDING HYMN

517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast

ERHALT UNS, HERR

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

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## DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Martin Luther

Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

Sandra Sittler, piano

✝ ✝ ✝

We thank Sandra Sittler, David Himes Brass Group, Zobian Family, Deborah & Peter Graf, Tama & David McConnell, David Himes, Amy Stewart-Himes, Tate Dewalt & Rachel Himes-Dewalt, Franki Aitken, Amy Young, Beth Welz, Russ Diesinger, Kathrine Graf, Josh and Jacinda Motley, Mellen Family, Amy Bornhofen, Alexander and Diana Ahmadi, Niku (Ahmadi) Tseng, Hannah Long, Kim Webster, Tom & Louise Souders, Dan Smith, and Geoff & Amber Eddinger for participating in this week's worship.

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