

*Reformation Sunday*  
*October 30, 2022*  
*Online 9:45am Service*



1812 North Highland Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 33755

Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Welcome! 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.

Welcome! Some practical things for you to know:

**Children:** All children, even those who are noisy, upset, or otherwise discombobulated, are always welcome here!

**Restrooms** are located to the left out of the doors you entered in to the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.

**Holy Communion:** All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table. Our ushers will guide you.

## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Congregation: Amen.**

Pastor: Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: God of mercy and forgiveness,

**Congregation: we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven ☩ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### *The Church's One Foundation*

ELW 654 vs. 1-3



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
by schisms. . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900  
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

## GREETING

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Worship Leader: 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. **Congregation: Amen.**

## FIRST READING

### Jeremiah 31:31-34

Introduction to the Lesson: *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.*

Reader: <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>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...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28**

Introduction to the Lesson: *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.*

Reader: [Paul writes:] <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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.

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

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

*The reading is concluded:*

Reader: The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL LESSON John 8:31-36**

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

Worship Leader: The Holy Gospel according to John in the 8th chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

*After the reading...*

The gospel of the Lord. **Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We Sit*

**SERMON**

**Rev. Lydia Villanueva**

*We Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

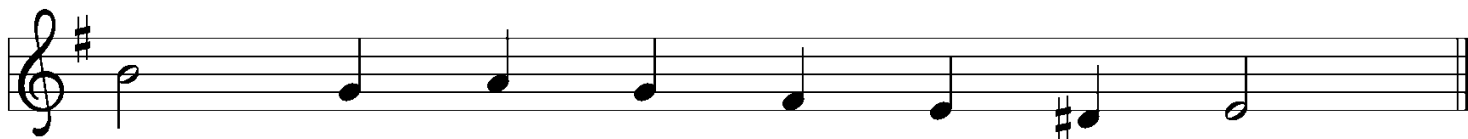
**ELW 517**



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

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Prayer Leader: God our fortress, we pray for the church. Write your law of love on the hearts of your people, that we remain steadfast in our witness to your grace. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God our liberator, we pray for your earth. Bring new life to overused land and contaminated rivers. Reform and reorient our relationship with the environment, that we faithfully care for all of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God, our refuge and strength, we pray for the nations. Where they are in an uproar, bring wise leadership and comfort for those in distress. Make wars to cease and peace to enter every land. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God, our very present help in trouble, we pray for those in need. Show mercy to refugees and all fleeing from danger. Shelter any without homes. Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis. We pray especially for those on the prayer list of our congregation, those suffering from violence and terror such as victims of mass shootings, those suffering from natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, drought, storms such as Hurricanes Fiona and Ian, and diseases such as cancer, COVID-19, and polio, and those we name now with our lips or in our hearts.....

Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God our redeemer, we pray for our congregation. Bless all who are preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Open their hearts to your Holy Spirit, teach them your word, and give them courage to proclaim their faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Prayer Leader: God our stronghold, we give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith, especially Martin Luther and all reformers, and those within our Memorial Garden. Renew and reform us as we strive to continue in your word. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Worship Leader: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Congregation: Amen.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

Prayer Leader: Let us pray. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **Congregation: Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

Worship Leader: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Worship Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Worship Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Worship Leader: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Congregation: Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in whichever language is closest to our hearts.

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

### BLESSING

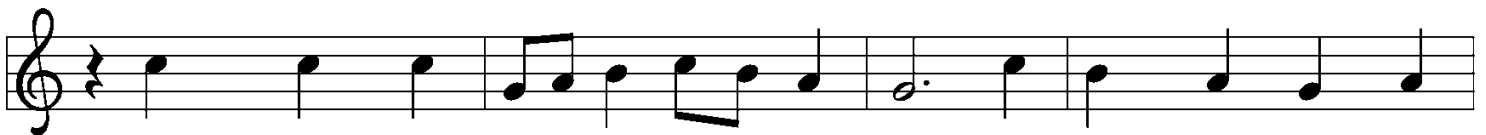
Worship Leader: God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**Congregation: Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

### *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

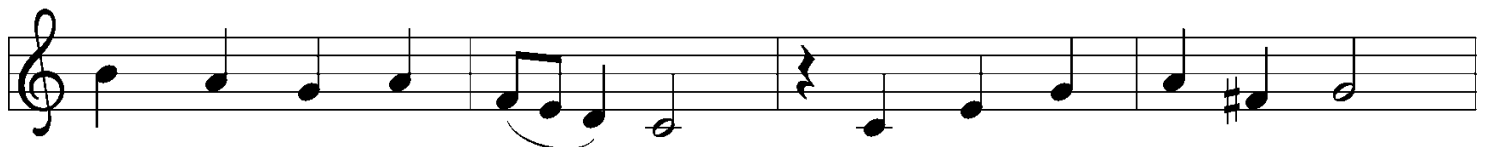
ELW 504



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

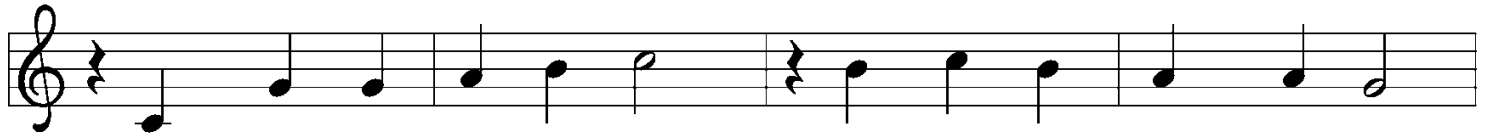


to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.  
God him - self e - lect - ed.  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us.  
weap - ons of the Spir - it.

The old sa - tan - ic foe  
You ask who this may be?  
Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe!  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage!  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse,

With craft and dread - ful might  
Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
His might is doomed to fail;  
though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail!  
they can - not win the day.

On earth he has no e - qual.  
He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## DISMISSAL

Worship Leader: Together we have heard God's Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE