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The Feast of the Reformation

October 30 & 31, 2021



Grace Alone
Faith Alone
Word Alone
Christ Alone

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
2107 Three Oaks Road, Cary, Illinois
October 30 & 31, 2021
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~~Inspired by Christ • Serving under Christ • Growing in Christ • Sharing Christ~~

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PROCESSIONAL (Please stand)

OPENING HYMN

"Thy Strong Word"

LSB 578 vs. 1-3

**Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; at Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, while Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Thy strong word bespeaks us righteous; bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, and our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

FIRST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED WITH LUTHER'S EXPLANATION:

"Creation"

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

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P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN

"By Grace I'm Saved"

LSB 566 v. 1,3,6

**By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; my soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught No!
Then this word must true remain: by grace you to will life obtain.**

**By grace God's Son, our only Savior, came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit that Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone, that brought Him from His heav'nly throne.**

**By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown since I am save by grace alone.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

—And also with you.

C:

P: Let us pray. Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Revelation 14:6-7

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR

"Built on the Rock"

arr. A. Fedak

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EPISTLE: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being^[a] will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

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R: This is the Word of the Lord.

B: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.
C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

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R:P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED WITH LUTHER'S EXPLANATION

"Redemption"

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"A Mighty Fortress"

LSB 656

A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need that hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight; on earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done; soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant One whom God Himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is, of Sabaoth Lord.
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill: they shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will, he can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done! One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain, nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain with His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life goods, fame, child, and wife, though these all be gone,

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Our vict'ry has been won; the kingdom ours remaineth.

(Please be seated)

SERMON: God is Our Refuge Always Text: John 8:31-36

(Please stand)

SECOND-THIRD ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED WITH LUTHER'S EXPLANATION

"Sanctification"

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

OFFERING

Your offering may be placed in the collection plate in the Narthex as you depart the church.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us. God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend _____ and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

P: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles.

P: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord in Your mercy,

P: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

~~B: And also with you.~~

~~C:~~

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

~~B: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.~~

~~C:~~

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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!

P: In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

"O Christ, Thou Lamb of God"

LSB p. 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,

grant us Thy peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION *(Please be seated)*

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LSB 655

**Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone; defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.**

**O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth; support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.**

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

LSB 909

**Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone.
To this temple, where we call You, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay:
Come with all Your loving-kindness, hear Your people as they pray;
And Your fullest benediction shed within its walls today.**

**Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful all the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from You, forever with the bless-ed to retain,
And hereafter in Your glory evermore with You to reign.**

**Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One,
One in might, and One in glory, while unending ages run!**

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

"O Lord, We Praise Thee"

LSB 617, vs. 2

**Thy holy body into death was given, life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made:
O Lord, have mercy!**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

~~B: Thanks be to God.~~

~~C:~~

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Thy Strong Word"

LSB 578 v. 4-6

**From the cross Thy wisdom shining breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth all Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**Give us lips to sing Thy glory, tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, alleluias without end!**

**God the Father, light-creator, to Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever praise the holy Trinity!**

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Luther Rose – The Seal of Luther

This is how Luther described his seal in 1530:

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.