

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

October 29th, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 Services

Reformation Sunday

Introduction for the day: 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.

Reformation Day - October 31 By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

Gathering

Prelude

Variations on Ein Feste Burg – A Mighty Fortress

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Call to Worship

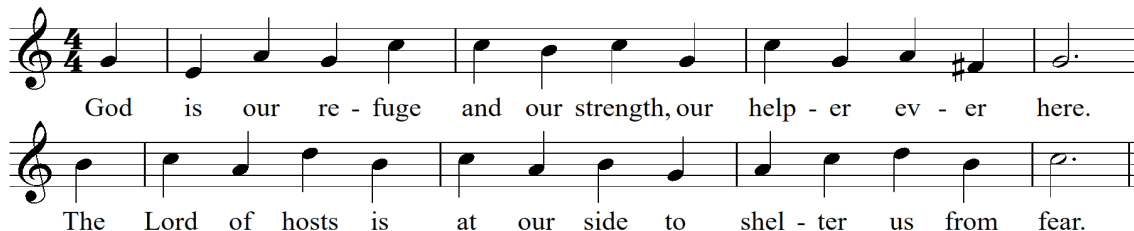
For your word, O LORD, is right, and faithful are all your works.

If God is for us, who can be against us.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose.

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength



Tune: St. Anne, CM. Music: William Croft, 1678-1727. Text: Based on Psalm 46. Arden Mead, Copyright © 1997 Creative Communications for the Parish. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the + holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

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, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

Gathering Song

#654 The Church's One Foundation

Opening Litany

If God is for us,

who can be against us.

God calls all people throughout the ages

to pursue God's kingdom and righteousness.

God speaks to us through Word and in our prayers

surrounding, encircling us into the arms of healing, forgiveness, and reforming love.

God sends to us the Word made flesh, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

who daily shows us that God's forgiving and loving kingdom is here, now and eternal.

God, moment by moment, immerses us into the guiding streams of the Holy Spirit

so the Word of God penetrates, cleanses, and transforms our hearts and minds, teaching us how to live fruitful, servant lives in the Kingdom and for the Kingdom of God.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

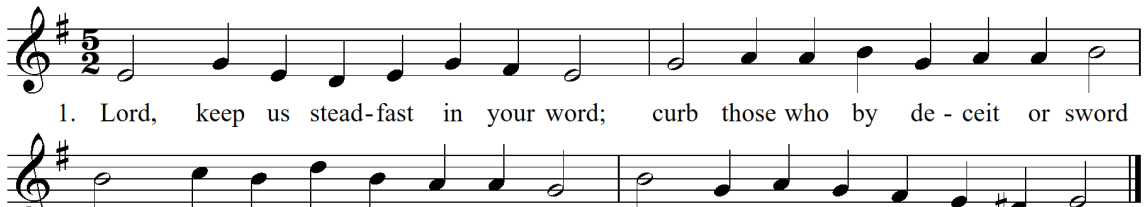
Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

Hymn

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word [Stanza 1]



1. Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who by de - ceit or sword
would wrest the king-dom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt. Music: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543. Tune: Erhalt uns, Herr, LM. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word [Stanza 2]

2. Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are Lord of lords a - lone;
de - fend your ho - ly church, that we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly

Psalm

Psalm 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 46.

God is our refuge 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 city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

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 upon 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.

Hymn

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word [Stanza 3]

3. O Com-fort - er of price-less worth, send peace and u - ni - ty on earth;
sup - port us in our fi - nal strife and lead us out of death to life.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Motet

*Non Moriar Sed Vivam – I Shall not Die but Live by
Martin Luther [1483-1546] – Senior Choir*

Non móriar sed vívam, et narrábo ópera Dómini.

I shall not die but live, and tell of the works of the Lord. -Psalm 117:17

In 1530, Martin Luther sent composer Ludwig Senfl a letter asking for a setting of the antiphon *In pace in idipsum* ("I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep"). Luther wrote, "I hope that the end of my life is at hand. The world hates and scorns me and I in turn am disgusted with the world and despise it. May the Good Shepherd take my soul." Senfl responded instead with a motet setting of another of Luther's favorite texts: *Non moriar, sed vivam* ("I shall not die, but live")—the chant Luther had written on the wall of his study in the Coburg. Luther himself then also wrote this motet on the text.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Reading

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 John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

(Prayer Cards, which can be found in the pew racks, will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)

Please join the Senior Choir on Stanzas 1 and 4 as led by the director.

Stanzas 2-3 will be sung by the Senior Choir.

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a
 Choir 2. With might of ours can naught be done; soon
 Choir 3. Though de - vils all the world should fill, all
 4. The Word they still shall let re - main, not

trust - y shield and weap - on; he helps us free from ev -
 were our loss ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val -
 ea - ger to de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear
 an - y thanks have for it; he's by our side up - on -

- 'ry need that has us now o'er - tak - en.
 - iant one whom God him - self e - lect - ed.
 no ill; they shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 the plain with his good gifts and Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe now means dead - ly
 You ask "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it
 This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he
 And take they our life, goods, fame, child, or

woe; deep guile and great might are his dread
 is, the al - might - y Lord. And there's no
 will, he can harm us none. He's judged; the
 wife, though all may be gone, our vic - to -

arms in fight; on earth is not his e - qual.
 oth - er God; he holds the field for - ev - er.
 deed is done! One lit - tle word can fell him.
 ry is won; the king - dom's our for - ev - er!

Profession of Faith

The 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.**

Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.

Prayer of Intercession

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

...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.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

Meal

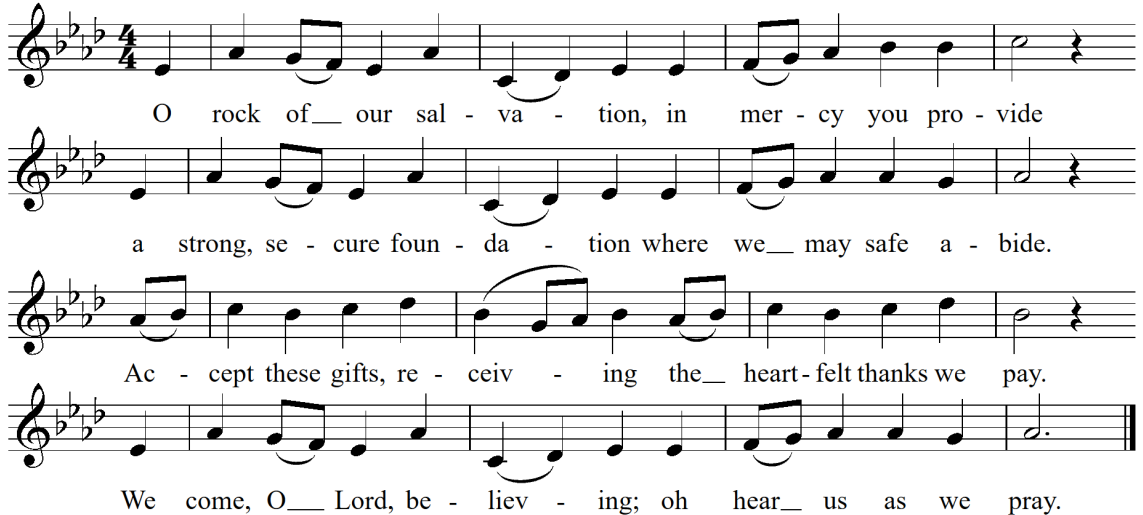
Offering

"Een Vaste Burg is Onze God" by Jan Zwart
[1877-1937]

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory Response

O Rock of Our Salvation



O rock of our sal - va - tion, in mer - cy you pro - vide
a strong, se - cure foun - da - tion where we may safe a - bide.
Ac - cept these gifts, re - ceiv - ing the heart - felt thanks we pay.
We come, O Lord, be - liev - ing; oh hear us as we pray.

Tune: M. v. Werkmeister. Gesangbuch der Herzogl 1784. Ellacombe, 76 76 D. Text: Arden and Peter Mead. Copyright © 2002 Creative Communications for the Parish. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.

Offertory Prayer

God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will
heal and continually reform the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Light.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving - Dialogue

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.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy page 144

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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

**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 Communion

Speak to us, O Lord,

In the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

Come for the table is now set.

**We come and share with one another this holy meal. There is a place and enough
for all.**

Please be seated.

Fruit juice is offered as an alternative to wine. Juice is in the center of the communion tray.

Luther's Statement on Holy Communion

What is communion? It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and the wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and drink. In this sacrament is given to us the forgiveness of sins, and where there is forgiveness of sins there is life and salvation.

We have, therefore, two principal sacraments in the church, baptism and the bread. Baptism leads us into a new life on earth; the bread guides us through death into eternal life. Finally, the blessing of this sacrament is fellowship and love, by which we are strengthened against death and all evil. This fellowship is twofold: on the one hand we partake of Christ and all saints, on the other hand we permit all Christians to be partakers of us, in whatever way they and we are able; so that by this sacrament all self-seeking love is uprooted and gives place to love which seeks the common good of all, and through this mutual love there is one bread, one drink, one body, one community, -that is the true union of Christian brethren.

Lamb of God

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Communion Hymn

#469 By Your Hand You Feed Your People

Please stand as you are able.

Communion Response

May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his light and grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that reform us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

#548 Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen

Dismissal

Go in peace, proclaim the **Word** of God to all.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prelude in A minor – J.S. Bach [1685-1750]