

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

October 28, 2018

8:00 and 10:30 am



REFORMATION DAY

Made right by Grace Through Faith

AS WE GATHER

While 2017 was the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, our celebrations continue into the 501st year since Martin Luther posted the Ninety-five Theses on the practice of indulgences, the sale of items, falsely taught, could be purchased for the forgiveness of sins. The Reformation is a celebration of freedom in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This can particularly be found in today's Epistle from Romans 3. In a marvelous, great exchange, Christ takes our unrighteousness and gives us His righteousness. Even though we all sin and fall short of the glory of God, we are justified by God's grace, as a gift not dependent on our works or efforts. We celebrate God's love and activity on our behalf to freely save us.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDES

“A Mighty Fortress” (Organ)
“March Royale” (Organ and Brass)

arr. Homer Whitford
arr. Jean-Baptiste Lully



PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

Congregation, please rise and turn to follow the cross.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”
Verses 1-4, 6

LSB 837

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Based on Psalm 46:1, 8–11

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength,

People: a very present help in trouble.

Pastor: Come, behold the works of the Lord.

People: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth.

Pastor: He will be exalted among the nations.

People: He will be exalted in the earth.

Pastor: The Lord of hosts is with us;
People: **the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God indeed is our refuge and strength, our help and our fortress. Yet we often choose to flee from the refuge of the Lord. We abandon the strength and safety of God, trusting in our own strength and power. The apostle Paul writes that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And Jesus says that everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. As we enter the house of the Lord and call upon Him for His good and gracious gifts, let us consider our enslavement to sin and our continued shortcomings as God's people.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: **we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have sinned as individuals and as a community. We have ignored neighbors in need. We have caused divisions among Your people. We have sought refuge in the things of this world and not in You. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to You, our refuge and strength.**

Pastor: While we have indeed all fallen short of the glory of God, we are all also justified by God's grace as a gift. Though we have been slaves to sin, God has set us free in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of the risen Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. The Son has set us free, and we are free indeed. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Kyrie (spoken)

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“This is the Feast”

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Verses



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength,
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *to refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *to refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - - tion: **to verse 4**
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - - - men. *to refrain*
glorify his reign. Al - le - lu - ia! **to Final Refrain**

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to free us from our enslavement to sin. Help us to abide in Your Word and bring others by Your Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ, so that every nation, tribe, language, and people will know the saving power of Christ and His resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Revelation 14:6–7

(“Fear God and give Him glory.”)

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour

of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: Romans 3:19–28

(All have sinned; all are justified by His grace.)

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"One Faith, One Hope, One Lord"

Craig Courtney
Ascension Chorale

Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia Verse and the Gospel.

VERSE *Luke 12:32*

All: **Alleluia. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL: John 8:31–36

(Listen to Jesus and be set free.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 only)

Kathy Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
(Verse 2 – Choir Only)

LSB 656 arr. P. Bunjes

SERMON "Re-formation"

Pastor Richard Langness

TEXT: Romans 3:19-28

CREED (THIRD ARTICLE WITH EXPLANATION) *Page 323 in front of the Hymnal*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, You are our refuge and strength. Defend Your Church from the attacks and accusations of the devil. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and His Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, since the fall into sin, all creation groans for restoration. Earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, floods, and other disasters cause great fear. But You are the God of all creation. Calm our hearts and be in our midst when the earth gives way. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, in this fallen world, nations rage and kingdoms totter. War, violence, and division plague the earth. But You are the Lord of hosts, and You are with us. Defend us from conflict and be our King of peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, send healing to all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. If it be Your will, restore their health with the overflowing abundance that comes only from Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: *Other intercessions may be added here . . . Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, we exalt You among the nations for the blessings You have poured out upon us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

We share the Lord's peace with one another, saying, "Peace be with you."

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "This is My Word"

Pepper Choplin
Ascension Chorale

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.



✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show His righteousness so that He might be just and the justifier of all who have faith in Jesus. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

ES IST DAS HEIL

Andrew R. Jones *Etlich Cristlich liden, Wittenberg, 1524*



O Lord of pow - er, might, and strength, Your
glo - ry spans cre - a - tion. Its breadth and height and
depth and length Reach past our com - pre - hen - sion. We
shout: Ho - san - na! Blest is He Who in God's name has
come to be The one whose truth sets all free!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My \times body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER *Text found in the back of the Hymnal. (Matthew 6:9–13)*



Agnus Dei

Andrew R. Jones ES IST DAS HEIL
Etlich Cristlich liden; Wittenberg, 1524

O Lamb of God, You take a - way The
sins of all cre - a - tion, Though we have fall - en
short each day Of Your great glo - ry's sta - tion. Still
You have jus - ti - fied us all. By grace, as gift, we're
freed to call Up - on Your Fa - ther's mer - cy.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Lord Keep Us Steadfast”

LSB 655
(Verse 2 – Choir Only)

arr. Von Kampen

“Three Reformation Chorales”

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

“Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus”

Brass Choir

LSB 606

LSB 660

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “Thy Strong Word”

LSB 578
(Verse 2 – Choir Only)

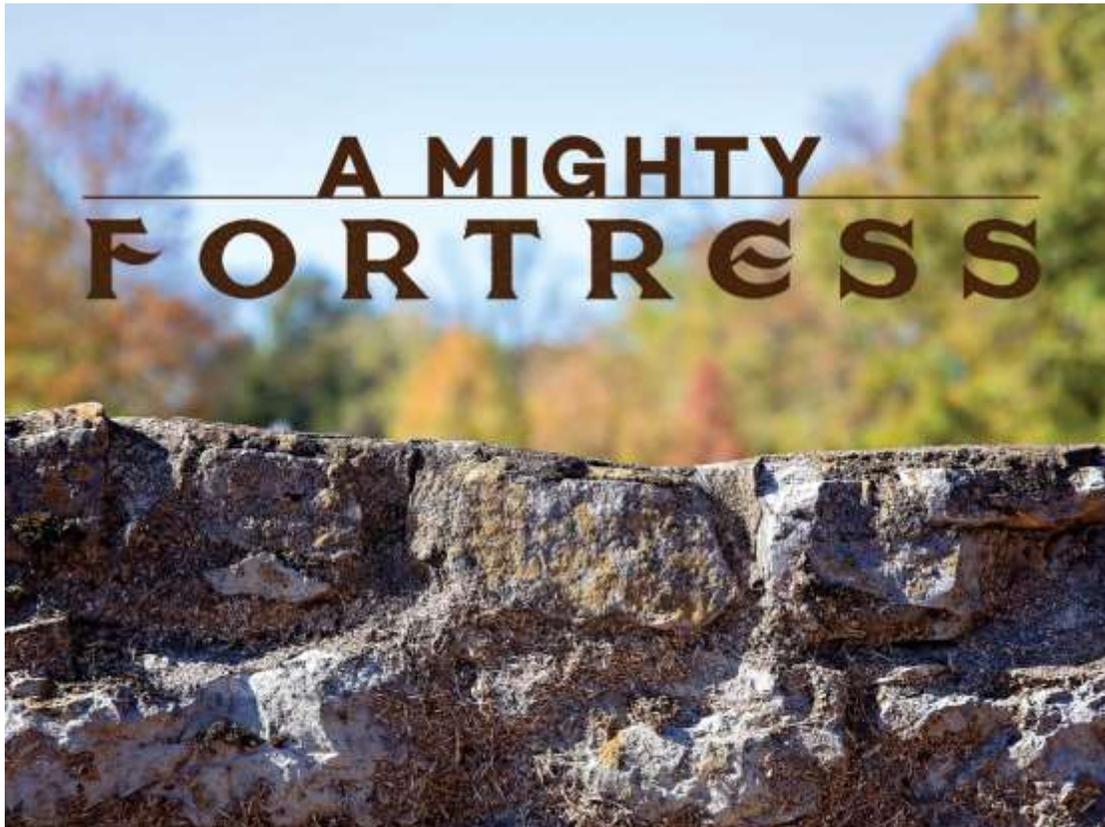
arr. Carl Schalk

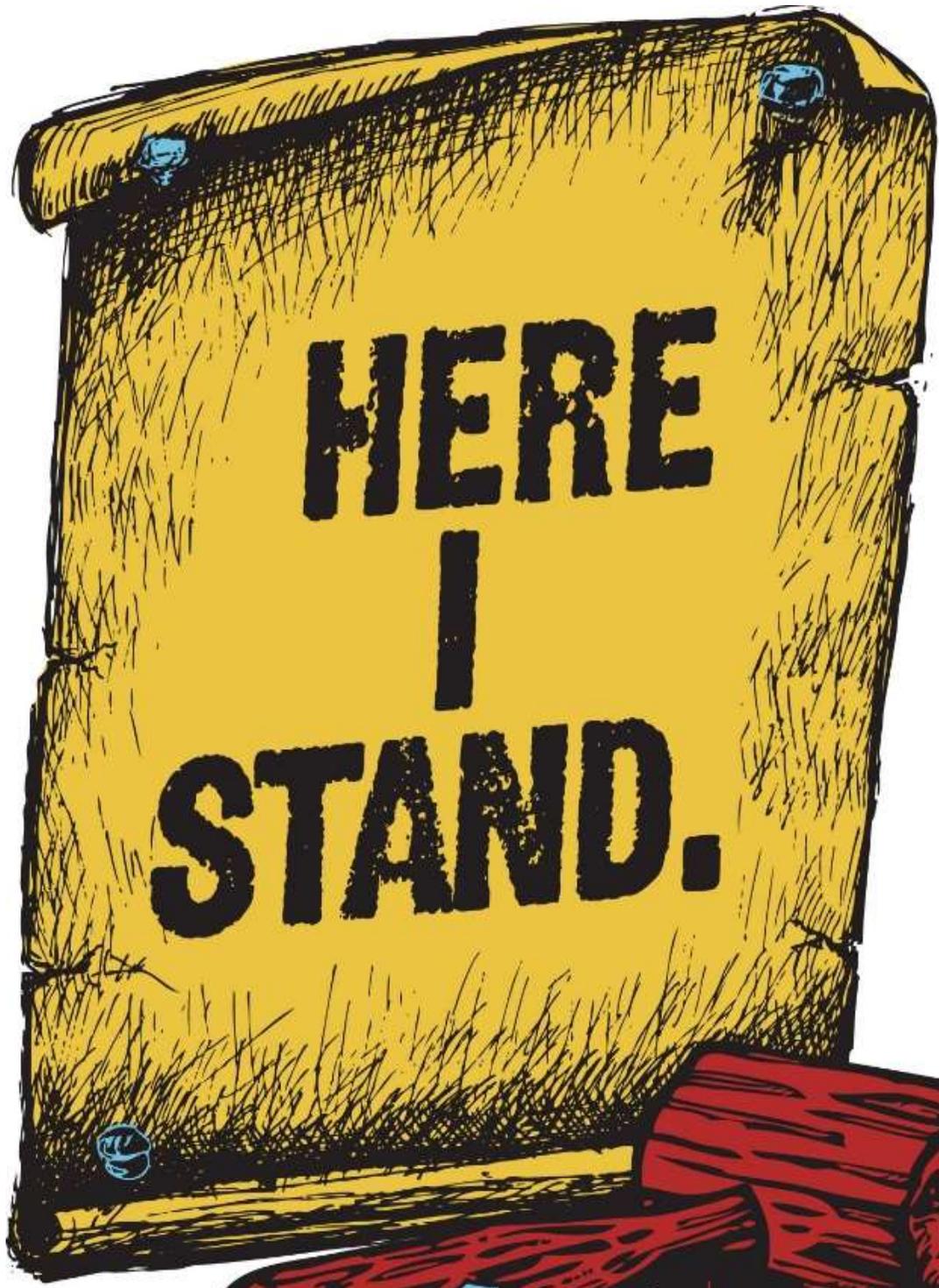
CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare in C” (Organ and Brass)

Henry Purcell





HERE
I
STAND.



Sola Gratia

Grace Alone

Sola Fide

Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
PREACHER
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
BRASS AND TIMPANI CHOIR

Pastor John Larson
Pastor Richard Langness
Michael Zehnder
Diana Gaide
Jonathan Saraga, Erik Ondrejko,
Yutaro Yazawa, Douglas Sternberg,
Ross Coons

ELDER 8:00
10:30

Norm Finrock
Scott Luethy

LECTOR 8:00
10:30

Ben Dallet
Carol Shepherd

ACOLYTE 8:00
10:30

Ian Avedissian
Hannah Schmitt

USHERS 8:00
10:30

Clyde Wiggins, Members of the
Congregation

Jason Dierking, Members of the
Congregation

SERVER 10:30
ALTAR GUILD

Margo Pasha
Shelia Beu, Joyce Dowdy, Charmaine
Rohde

FLOWERS

David & Brianna Fort in celebration of
their 1st wedding anniversary.