

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*October 24 and 25, 2020*

5:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. Sunday



## REFORMATION SUNDAY

A Mighty Fortress is Our God/Reformation Day

### AS WE GATHER

Martin Luther's great hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is based on Psalm 46. When the psalm was first written, it gave courage to God's Old Testament people. Centuries later, when Luther wrote the hymn, the world was filled with plagues and death, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. Further, neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the government accepted the teachings of the reformers. Now, in our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists, political polarization, and ecclesiastical division. Because of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, we need not fear. Our gracious God is a very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the powers of the created world around us and the forces of evil from every source. From His throne flow streams of mercy to give us confident joy. We know that in the end "the kingdom ours remaineth."

**Today we welcome Rev. Michael Paulison who is going to talk about Mission, which is at the heart of our spirit of Reformation.**

*Jesus said,  
"Feed  
my  
sheep."*

*John 21:17*



✂ PREPARATION ✂

Prelude

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

Homer Whitford

Pastoral Greeting

Tolling of the Bell

Opening Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

LSB 657

Verses 1, 3-4



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -  
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 wins sal -  
vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not  
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to  
o - ver - pow'r us, Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle  
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He  
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's  
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Invocation

## Confession of Sins

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## Absolution

✠ WORD ✠

**Psalm** Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7

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

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

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

Pastor: 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 her; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.  
The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
He utters his voice, the earth melts.

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

Pastor: Come, behold the works of the Lord,  
how He has brought desolations on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
He burns the chariots with fire.  
“Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!”

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

## **Epistle: Romans 6:12-23**

(We are no longer slaves to sin.)

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know

that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey— whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I am

using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel: John 21:1-17**

(Feed my sheep.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

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

**Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said,**

**“We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.**

**Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.**

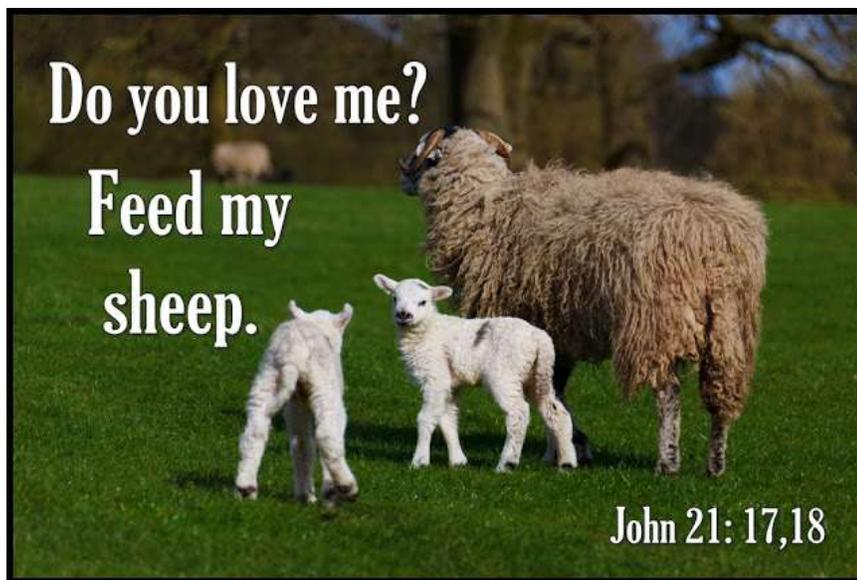
**He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”**

**“No,” they answered.**

**He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.**

**Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.**

**Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.**



**When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”**

**“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”**

**Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”**

**Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”**

**He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”**

**Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”**

**The third time he said to**

**him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”**

**Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”**

**Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.**

**Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Leader All

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing Through the Word in - vit - ing,

Of - fer - ing for - give - ness, Com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All

1 Je - sus gave His man - date: Share the good news  
2 Let none be for - got - ten Through - out the world.  
3 Help us to be faith - ful, Stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*

That He came to save us \_\_\_ And set us free.  
In the tri - une name of God Go and bap - tize.  
Walk - ing in Your pre - cepts, \_\_\_ Led by Your Word.

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**Sermon** "Breathing Life Back Into Our Missional Hearts" Rev. Michael Paulison  
TEXT: John 21:1-17

### Apostles' Creed

**People:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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. 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  $\times$  everlasting. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

**Pastor:** Lord, in your mercy...

**People:** Hear our prayer.

**Offering** Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex.

✠ **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 (Divine Service, Setting One)**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Words of Institution**

## Lord's Prayer

**People:** 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.

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

LSB 702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;  
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my  
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my  
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's  
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!  
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.  
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

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"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" (Organ)

Lowell Mason

## General Communion Blessing

## Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

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.

People: **Amen.**

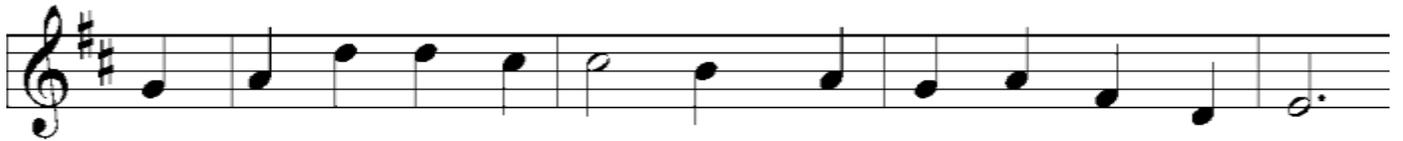
**Closing Hymn**

**“The Church’s One Foundation”  
Verses 1-2, 4**

*LSB 644*



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;  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war



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.  
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more



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,  
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,



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 the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

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**Congregational Concerns**

**Dismissal**

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

David Cherwien

*(and Row by Row Dismissal)*

Do **You** Love Me?

Feed My Lambs

(John 21:15-17)

Do **You** Love Me?

Tend My Sheep

Do **You** Love Me?

Feed My Sheep



[SomeJesusThings.com](http://SomeJesusThings.com)

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20)

### Serving in Worship

**OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**

Rev. Michael Paulison  
Michael Zehnder

