

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*October 25, 2020*  
10:30 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.**

## Gathering Song

### Your Grace Is Enough

Maher

Great is Your faithfulness, O God; You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.  
You lead us by still waters into mercy And nothing can keep us apart.

**CHORUS: So, remember Your people, Remember Your children,  
Remember Your promise O God.  
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough, for me.**

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob; You use the weak to lead the strong.  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation, And all Your people sing along. **CHORUS**

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, for me.

Remember Your people, Remember Your children, Remember Your promise O God.  
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, for me.

Yeah, Your grace is enough; Heaven reaches out to us. Your grace is enough for me.  
God, I sing: Your grace is enough; I'm covered in Your love.  
Your grace is enough for me, for me.

## ✘ PREPARATION ✘

## Pastoral Greeting

### Opening Song

#### A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther, arr. Tommy Walker

A mighty fortress is our God A bulwark never failing  
Our helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing  
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe  
His craft and power are great And armed with cruel hate On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide Our striving would be losing  
Were not the right man on our side The man of God's own choosing  
Dost ask who that may be Christ Jesus it is He  
Lord Sabaoth His name From age to age the same  
And He must win the battle **CHORUS**

**CHORUS: A mighty fortress A mighty fortress is our God  
A mighty fortress A mighty fortress is our God**

And though this world With devils filled Should threaten to undo us We will not fear  
For God hath willed His truth to triumph through us  
The prince of darkness grim We tremble not for him  
His rage we can endure For lo his doom is sure  
One little word shall fell him **CHORUS**

## 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 ✂

**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.

### Children’s Message

Kathy Johnson

Song of the Day **Shine, Jesus, Shine**

WOV

Lord, the light of Your love is shining, In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, Set us free by the truth You now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

**CHORUS:** Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with love and mercy;  
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness, So our faces display Your like ness,  
Ever changing from glory to glory, Mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me. **CHORUS**

**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 ☩ 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.**



## THE LORD'S SUPPER

## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

### Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Tomlin

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, Was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

**CHORUS My chains are gone. I've been set free,  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy rains,  
Unending love, amazing grace.**

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures. **CHORUS X2**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, The sun forbear to shine.  
But God, who called me here below, Will be forever mine, Will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.

### 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 Song This Is Amazing Grace

Wickham

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,  
whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,  
who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

**CHORUS: This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,  
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross.  
You laid down Your life that I would be set free.  
Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me.**

Who brings our chaos back into order, who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings. **CHORUS**

## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*(and Row by Row Dismissal)*

### Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Rev. Michael Paulison  
Michael Zehnder

