



REFORMATION SUNDAY

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 25th, 2020

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This day invites us to celebrate the perennial source of reform in the church: the Word of God and the sacraments of forgiveness and new life. Indeed, when the church welcomes a new member in baptism or gathers around the table of communion, the Holy Spirit's reforming labor continues among us.

While we are right to acknowledge that our souls are captive to sin and that we cannot free ourselves, we also celebrate the tremendous faithfulness of our God who does not leave us in our sinful state, but comes among us bringing forgiveness and life.

The hymns today were written during Luther's lifetime.

+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

P. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P. God of all mercy,

C. we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 hearts, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. 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

P. There is, indeed, no distinction among us – we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. But thanks be to God who has passed over our sins and forgiven us. Not because we are deserving, but because God is faithful and keeps his promises. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you are set free from your sins and given a new life. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GREETING

P. Holy people of God, called through the gospel of Christ, enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. C. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in Your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church Your saving peace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. **Amen**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah the prophet envisions a future day when the law will be written “on their hearts” (31:33). To know God in this way is to have a direct and profound connection to God. The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive wickedness and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who is both faithful and able to forget.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

⁴The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown;
God shall help her at the break of day.

⁷The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

⁸The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁹Come now and look upon the works of the LORD,
what awesome things He has done on earth.

¹⁰It is He who makes war to cease in all the world;
He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹¹“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹²The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Martin Luther and other leaders of the Reformation believed the heart of the gospel was found in these words of Paul written to the Romans. All people have sinned, but God offers forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus. We are justified, or put right with God, through the faithfulness of God in Jesus Christ.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰For “no human being will be justified in His sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by His blood, effective through faith. He did this to show His righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that He himself is righteous and that He justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

HOLY GOSPEL: St. John 8:31-36

C. Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They an-

swered Him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do You mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Salvation Unto Us has Come*



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and fa -
vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They help and save us
nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for
all the world a - tone; He is our me - di - a - tor.

2. There was a false, misleading dream who thought God's law was given that sinners might themselves redeem and by their works gain heaven. The Law is but a mirror bright to bring the inbred sin to light that lurks within our nature.

3. And yet the law fulfilled must be, or we were lost forever; therefore God sent His Son that He might us from death deliver. He all the law for us fulfilled, and thus His Father's anger stilled which over us impended.

4. Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone and rests in Him unceasing; and by its fruits true faith is known, with love and hope increasing. For faith alone can justify; works serve our neighbor and supply the proof that faith is living.

5. All blessing, honor, thanks and praise to Father, Son and Spirit, the God Who saved us by His grace, all glory to His merit. O Triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed Your saving love; Your blessed name we hallow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the virgin
Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the whole Church, gathered in word and sacrament, in prayer and praise, in loving deeds building up the body, and in forgiveness. We join with our sisters and brothers of all denominations as we pray for the fire of the Holy Spirit to be ignited in us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

In Your love, You created our earth and filled it with living things of all kinds. As mountains shake and the waters roar, sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind, especially all those recovering from the hurricanes and flooding in the south, and everyone struggling with fires in the west. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Our broken world longs for peace, economic opportunity, and healthy living conditions, we pray especially for all nations under stress from increasing virus infections among their people. Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict. Pour out Your blessing upon all nations and peoples, that all may share in the goodness You intend for Your creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You, O God, are our refuge and strength. Be a very present help to all who suffer: the patients afflicted with coronavirus and their loved ones, medical professionals who are ex-

hausted, the unemployed who are losing hope, those who live in fear of eviction or who have lost their housing, those living in bondage to debts, those in chronic pain, and those fighting addiction. Grant Your healing touch to all who are ill. We pray especially for Merv, Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Lynette, Brenda, Bill and Karen Polen, Bill Ningen, and Marlo and Gail Sumption. Take all fear from those who are suffering and give them the certainty of Your presence with them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Stir up in this congregation thankful hearts for the righteousness of God disclosed through faith in Jesus Christ, and draw us ever more powerfully into the truth of Him Who died and rose again to free us from the slavery of sin. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Even in death, You free us and give us a place in Your house. We give You thanks for Martin Luther, renewer of the church, and for all the saints throughout the ages who have called the Church to faithful witness of Jesus Christ. Renew Your covenant with us, so that we may live in the confidence that we are Your people and You are our God until we are united with You and all the saints in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Hear us when we call upon You, O God, and enfold in Your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

OFFERING

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. God our provider,

C. all that we have is a sign of Your love; all that we are is a gift from Your hand. Receive our offerings along with our thanksgiving, that our lives may proclaim Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ MEAL +

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P. The Lord be with you. C. And also with you.
P. Lift up your hearts. C. We lift them to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P. Holy God ... bread for the world.
C. Amen.
P. In the night in ... the everlasting feast.
C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
P. By Your Spirit ... both now and forever.
C. Amen.

THE 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 kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- P. The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- P. Blessed are You, God of heaven and earth. You satisfy us with good things; You open Your hand and we are fed. Renew our strength, that we may go with eagerness and joy into the places where You send us to work in Jesus' name.
C. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

P. People of God, stand firm in one spirit; strive side by side for the faith of the gospel; let your gentleness be known by everyone; and the God of peace, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.

- 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected.
You ask Who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot over pow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage! His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched
away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.



These four letters stand for a Latin phrase: Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum, which means, "The Word of God endures forever." It became a motto of the Reformation.

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

Organist: Lou Knutson Reader: Terry Dybsetter

Camera: Projection: Josh Sumption

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>

October 18, 2020

General: \$877.50 (\$599.50 received through eGiving)

Savings: \$60.00 in memory of Mike Wentz for online service resources.

October 19, 2020 Special Transfer

General: \$3,000.00 from Reserve Fund for General Operational Support.



Merv Anderson, Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson
Shirlee Gabbert, Lynette Christie, Brenda Knutson, Bill and Karen Pohlen
Bill Ningen, Marlo and Gail Sumption



All Saints Sunday is next Sunday. If you have a loved one who died this past year (since last November) whom you would like to remember, please let the office know. Everyone whose funeral or baptism was held at Bethel will automatically be recognized.

Acknowledgements

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