



REFORMATION

S U N D A Y

October 29, 2023

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Golden Valley, Minnesota

The Christian church at the beginning of the sixteenth century was not communicating God's gospel to the world. The good news of great joy in Jesus Christ was buried under the bad news of more sins, more money, more sacrifices, more rules. On Reformation Sunday we celebrate the restoration to the center of the church's message the truth that we are saved by grace alone, which is revealed by Scripture alone and received by faith alone.

God Welcomes Us

HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God | #251

This hymn is often referred to as "the battle hymn" of the Reformation. It was sung in the streets; it was sung by poor Protestant emigrants on their way to exile; it was sung by Lutheran martyrs at their death; and Gustavus Adolphus ordered it sung by his army before battle in 1631.

INVOCATION

John 8

P: ³¹Jesus said: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;

C: ³²**and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Romans 5

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: ¹Since we are justified by faith,

C: ¹**we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

P: ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand;

C: ²**and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.**

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Lift up your hearts to God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us. He has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of Jesus' work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

C: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

How Firm a Foundation | #521

God Speaks to Us

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and give your 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Daniel 6:10–12, 16–23

No threats of judgment could change Daniel's loyalty to God. He stood firm and God temporarily saved him from death that day, and will permanently save him from death on the last day.

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹² So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.

¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹ Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Fight the Good Fight

The poetry can be found at hymn #249

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 10:16–23

Every day we are witnesses before other people who are judging our words and lives. Jesus promises, "The one who stands firm to the end will be saved."

¹⁶ "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say,

²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹ “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²² You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³ When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

HYMN

The Church's One Foundation | #486

SERMON

Romans 3:19–28

The word ‘justification’ means to be declared righteous in a court of law. When I believe in Jesus as my Savior, God looks at me “just-if-I’d” never sinned at all!

¹⁹ Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. ²⁰ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

²¹ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and

including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

²⁷ Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. ²⁸ So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

What is there to praise and thank God for in this passage?

How does this passage correct our thinking about God and his plans?

What do we need to believe as a result of this passage?

Is there anything we should stop or start doing as a result of this passage?

Is there anything we need to say to someone as a result of this passage?

Influential Scandinavian pastor and poet N.F.S. Grundtvig composed this verse to be a fifth verse to Luther's hymn, A Mighty Fortress.

**God's word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations.**

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall 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.

God Receives Our Offering

OFFERING

The teaching and evangelism work of King of Grace is supported entirely by donation. You can support this work by giving a gift in the offering plate or at www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

HYMN

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word | #589

God Blesses Us

PRAYER

Psalm 46

P: ¹God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

C: ²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**

P: ³though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

C: ⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.**

P: ⁵God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

C: ¹¹**The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

HYMN

Ye Lands, to the Lord Make a Jubilant Noise | #56

Meditate on how Psalm 46 relates to today's theme throughout this week.

Preacher..... Pastor Bernt Tweit
Liturgist..... Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad
Organist (Sunday)..... Karen Merseth
Choir Director..... Allen Labitzky
Handbells Xavier Khouth,
Kailey Oppitz,
Matthew Newhall,
Abby Madison Ocheltree,
Noah Edwards
Pianist (Monday)..... Tim Guillaume



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