

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Reformation Sunday, Year A

Introduction

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,

Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Psalm and Gospel

Psalm 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (*Ps. 46:7*)

John 8:31-36

Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth

Psalm: Psalm 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

¹God 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 shake in the depths of the sea;

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus 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 answered 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.”

Prayers of Intercession

When I say, “the LORD of hosts is with us,” you respond, “**the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**”

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

A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.

O God, our Maker, we praise you for the blessings of created life, for the wonders of autumn air, for the blaze of maples in reds and yellows, for the bounty of the harvest, for the glories of music. You shower us with your blessings!

The LORD of Hosts is with us:

The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, you call nations into being, and bring reconciliation where we have long given up hope. *pause* Remember the United States in this difficult season of our life. Inspire leaders of all nations with vision to serve the common good, that all in government may live rightly, serve justly, and honor what is best in our country.

The LORD of Hosts is with us:

The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Merciful Savior: Open the eyes of your Church to your grace and your truth.

The LORD of Hosts is with us:

The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Eternal God: We praise you for signs of new life at Grace Lutheran *pause* Remember your people who gather here and are drawn to our online ministry for sustenance, for life, to learn and to serve.

The LORD of Hosts is with us:

The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

O Holy Spirit, protector and guardian, bring peace and comfort where we are troubled.
Sustain those unable to be with us in person.
Bring relief to all who suffer in mind, body and spirit.
Show compassion on all who grieve.

Shield those who put themselves in harm's way to save others. *pause*

We remember before you especially today frontline workers
as case counts of the virus rise again and police and firefighters
who face danger at work daily.

The LORD of Hosts is with us:

The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Into your hands, O Merciful Savior, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,
nourish us with this rich food and drink,
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet table
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and [little cross here] give you peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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Liturgy adapted and prayers prepared this week by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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