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Worship
Reformation Sunday
October 27th, 2024

THE GATHERING

Greeting and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is with his people.

He dwells in their midst.

Listen and hear him speak.

Our hearts long for his word.

We wait upon the Lord

so that we may renew our strength.

God is our help and our support.

His spirit moves among us

to lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

With joyful hearts we sing God's praise.

With rejoicing we call upon Him.

The Lord is our hope and our salvation.

GATHERING HYMN – Listen, God Is Calling ELW #513

[A leader sings the words in parentheses]

Refrain

(Listen,)

listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

(Listen,)

listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

- 1 (Jesus gave his mandate:)
share the good news
(that he came to save us)
and set us free. *Refrain*

2 (Let none be forgotten)
throughout the world.
(In the triune name of God)
go and baptize. *Refrain*

3 (Help us to be faithful,)
standing steadfast,
(walking in your precepts,)
led by your Word. *Refrain*

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

AMEN

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

We confess that we honored you with our lips but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ. The source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen

Silence is kept for reflection

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, for peace throughout the world, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend, gracious Lord. **Amen**

HYMN OF PRAISE – *Gloria - Heritage Mass*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill.

We praise you, we bless you we adore you, we glorify you,

We give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heav'nly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father

You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the most High, Jesus Christ,

With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Reading- Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy. The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

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. It 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. But 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. No 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm- 46

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

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

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

Selah

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 the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

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

Selah

Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;

he burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God!"

I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."

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

Second Reading- Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith 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. For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who

believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom 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; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. Alleluia

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading – 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.

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They 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'?"

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

"This is the Gospel of our Lord."

Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

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HYMN OF THE DAY- In Christ There Is No East or West EWL #650 vs 2,3,4

- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.**
- 3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.**
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.**

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

We affirm our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

You may be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Challenged by God's word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world and the whole creation.

A brief silence

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in the shared worship and mission.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve. Draw them close to you and sooth them with the promise of your enduring love. We pray especially for our loved ones in need of care, Brian, Julie, David, James, Dianne and Addy.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond. Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, in Christ's resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

What else do the people of God want to lift up to God this day?

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

Amen

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Let's share God's peace with one another.

THE MEAL

Lord, we give you today what is already yours. You provide so much for us. Thank you for giving us the ability to give and cheerful hearts to do it. We continue with the offering

OFFERING HYMN – Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love ELW # 708

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*
- 2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain*
- 3 These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

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OFFERTORY – “*Make Me a Servant*”

**Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be;
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.**

OFFERING PRAYER

**Blessed are you, O God, Source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” – Heritage Mass

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

COMMUNION INVITATION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

You may be seated

COMMUNION HYMN / KRISTAN YOUN

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

THE SENDING

BENEDICTION

God almighty, God most merciful † bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN –A Mighty Fortress Is Our God ELW #504 vs 1,2 & 4

- 1 **A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.**

- 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.**

- 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!**

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

**Bethany's Mission Statement –
Accepting
Serving
Loving . . .
We Share God's Embrace**

Pastor	The Rev. Sandy Jones
Accompanist:	Kristan Youn
Lector	Tom Aaby
Communion	Yvonne & Bud Morrison
Ushers	Michael Patelis & Sharon Welzen
Fellowship:	Yvonne Morrison
Production	Karen Maglich