

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II  
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music  
October 30, 2022

# Reformation Sunday

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*The color for Reformation Sunday is red, which represents the fire of the Holy Spirit. Luther's Rose, a primary emblem of the Lutheran church, is comprised of the following: a black cross, for faith in Christ crucified; the red heart, for faith in the Savior; the white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace; the blue sky, symbolizing that such joy of faith in the Spirit is the beginning of the heavenly joy to come; and the golden ring surrounding all, to signify the endless bliss that heaven will bring.*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** We gather renewed by God to praise the One who forgets our sin. God gives us hope, as we realize that grace liberates us from sin and allows our faith in Christ. As children of God, we can realize the truth of God's grace and freedom we have to express love to one another.

## Welcome/Announcements

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

## Gathering Music

## Reformation Litany

- P** On this Reformation Sunday, let us celebrate that our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer renews.  
**C** **We thank you for giving us new life.**
- A** Look, Lord: an empty vessel that needs to be filled.  
**C** **My Lord, fill it.**
- P** I am weak in the faith;  
**C** **strengthen me.**
- A** I am cold in love;  
**C** **warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.**
- P** I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times, I doubt and am unable to trust in you.  
**C** **O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.**

**A** I am poor; you are rich –  
**C** and you came to be merciful to the poor.

**P** I am a sinner; you are upright. With me there is an abundance of sin;  
**C** with you is fullness of righteousness.

**A** Thank you for remaining with us,  
**C** for by your grace we are healed.

**P** We are blessed with your renewing life.  
**C** We thank you for giving us new life. Amen.

## Gathering Hymn

## *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

ELW 504

## Prayer of the Day

**A** 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.  
**C** **Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us 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. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

**L** A reading from **Jeremiah**.

*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 (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>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.

**L** The Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*The psalm is spoken. The leader will read the light text. The assembly will read the bold.*

## **Psalm 46**

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

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

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold 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.

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

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

📖 A reading from **Romans**.

*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.*

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>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; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For 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.**

*Arise in body or spirit. All speak the Gospel Acclamation in unison.*

**Gospel Acclamation Spoken**

**Alleluia!**

**Alleluia. 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.**

## 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.*

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>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?’”

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

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children’s Time

### Message

*Silence for reflection*

### Hymn of Day

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

**ELW 517**

### Prayers of Intercession

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Hear us O, Lord.** The assembly prays: **You give us grace.***

☐ Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence*

☐ We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God. We thank you for our church leaders especially, *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Bread of Life Lutheran Church, Hudsonville, Church of Nazarene, Hastings, Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us O, Lord.

☑ **You give us grace.**

Ⓐ We pray for all who aspire to public office and for all who will vote on Tuesday at local polling places. Pour wisdom and understanding upon all who govern so that communities of justice and peace may thrive. Hear us O, Lord.

☞ **You give us grace.**

Ⓐ We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit. Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Be with those who serve in the military, especially *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Austin and Aaron Endsley, Alexis and Carlos Garcia (Burdicks), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads)*. Hear us O, Lord.

☞ **You give us grace.**

Ⓐ We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Send healing and relief to all who are sick, especially *Doris Allerdig, Amber Andrews, Vickey Argo, Chris Bush, Ron Bush, Donna Buehl, Cherie Clements, Ann Cusack, The family of Joyce Daugherty, Mary Dawson, Pat Wales Depew, Ray Depew, Mike Fruth, Lori Glayness, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Henry Heil, Mike Hoppe, Jay Joseph, Bill Melcher, Darlene Olson, Cynthia Rudesill (healthy pregnancy), Jane Secor, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Sharon Varkula, Cheri Wilke, Deborah Wilke, Kristi Winick, Eve Wright, Lynnze, Kaylee F., Lily & Ali B. and Laney F.* Hear us O, Lord.

☞ **You give us grace.**

*(You may share your prayers at this time)  
Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Ⓐ We give thanks for all the saints and reformers who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation, especially Martin Luther, Joyce Daugherty and others we name aloud at this time. Give us courage through their example to challenge unjust systems and work toward life-giving reformation. Hear us O, Lord

☞ **You give us grace.**

☞ Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth, and life.

☞ **Amen.**

*Arise in body or spirit. The pastor and the assembly greet each other giving a sign of Christ's peace.*

## Sharing the Peace

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☛ **And also with you.**

*(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)*

*After a sign of Christ's peace is given the prayer is prayed, as the assembly continues to stand.*

## Offering Prayer

☞ Let us pray . . . God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us.

☛ **Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; 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 to the Lord.**

☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☛ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

☞ 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 the 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 forever.

☛ **Amen.**

☞ 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim that Jesus is among us.

☛ **Amen.**



## Lord's Prayer

☞ Lord teach us always to pray:

☞ **Our Father in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

☞ Holy food for Holy people.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

## We partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

*Please be seated. You are invited to come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At this time, we only offer the pouring chalice and prefilled grape juice cups. There is a gluten-free option for the bread. Please let the pastor know.*

*Please remain seated.*

## Prayer after Communion

☞ Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

☞ **Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Blessing

☞ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

☞ **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

*The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

ELW 729

## Who Needs to Be Freed?

Martin Luther disliked the idea that adherents to his ideas would call themselves “Lutherans,” preferring the term “Christians” instead. Luther wanted the focus to be on what Christ had done, not on what he had done. So perhaps Luther would be distressed to see so many faithful people not only calling themselves Lutherans five centuries later, but also celebrating Reformation Sunday as a church holiday! Lucky for Luther, the focus of Reformation Sunday is not on Luther’s writings or accomplishments but on the freedom in Christ that is at the heart of the gospel message.

In today’s text from John’s gospel, Jesus’ audience also quibbled over terminology. When Jesus told them, “The truth will make you free” (John 8:32), they were suspicious about what exactly he meant by “free.” They rejected any implication that they or their ancestors might previously have been slaves in need of being set free. However, Jesus wasn’t talking about politics or history. He was referring to a kind of slavery that transcends context: the slavery of sin. All people have been enslaved by sin, and all people need God’s mercy. We are bound by the individual sin of personal choices and by the societal sin of complex systems that are beyond any one person’s control.

The weight of all that sin can feel crushing, but at the heart of the Reformation message is the truth that, through Christ’s death and resurrection, God has already offered us unconditional forgiveness for all our sins, no matter how heavy. We don’t need to earn God’s mercy because it is a gift offered without reservation or requirement. God’s grace is given to us for free and to make us free. Thanks be to God, the chains are gone! That is the good news at the heart of Luther’s teachings, and it is the good news at the heart of our celebration on Reformation Sunday and every day.

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### **Leaders in worship today**

**Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin**

**Lector – Jamie Heise**

**Cantor – Cindy Olson**

**Musician – Cindy Olson**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

**Psalms are for Singing** Did you know that the Psalms were literally songs, sung to praise God or lament? Grace will soon return to singing the Psalm, starting in Advent, November 27<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be a Cantor, or Singer of the Psalm, please let me know! Thanks, Cindy Olson.

**2023 Calendars** God’s Creation Calendars are available in the Gathering Area for \$5.00. Please put your money in the envelope provided and make sure you include “Outreach Calendar” on the envelope. Envelopes can be deposited in the collection plate or placed on Brenda’s desk.

## Stewardship Information

Attendance: 64	Views: 228
Weekly Giving: \$1,075.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Renew Campaign Needed \$2,300.00	
Renew Campaign Received \$ 0.00	
TOTAL Outstanding \$2,300.00	

**Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who transforms our lives, so that we can point to God who first loved us.**

**Trunk-or-Treat is TOMORROW, October 31<sup>st</sup>** from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. We are accepting donations of wrapped candy which can be dropped off in the basket in the Gathering Area. Don't forget to sign up to help with this fun event. Thank you.

**Replace, Repair, Renew Campaign.** As you can tell by the above numbers, we have paid off all of these items. Now we enter into the Renewal phase of the campaign which has a goal of raising \$4842.00 toward a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. Thanks again for your continued generosity.

**Pasty Sale CHANGE OF DATE Please place your orders by Thursday, November 10th with pickup on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Call 269.945.9414 to place your or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Just a reminder that pasties are \$7.00 for unbaked, and \$8.00 for baked. There is a limit of 156 unbaked and 144 for baked this sale.

**Heating and Cooling** Just a reminder as the seasons change. If you change the thermostats in the building, please push the run button when finished heating the space to the desired level. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Phantom of the Opera** The Mighty Wurlitzer Theater Organ Concert held at the Grand Rapids Public Museum presents The Phantom of the Opera on Saturday, November 5 at 2:00 p.m. Leave Grace at 12:30. Cost is \$15 per ticket, and you can pay with cash or check (made out to Grace Lutheran Church). Please indicate Organ Concert in memo line. Envelopes are available with the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.

**Secret Santa Survey** If you would like to participate in 2022 Secret Santa, please fill out a survey and place it in the offering plate, or on the Parish Administrator's desk. We look forward to having lots of fun this year.