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**Reformation**

“We are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand.” *Isaiah 64:8*

**AS WE GATHER**

Reformation is a time to remember and celebrate that the Church founded by Jesus Christ is a living entity. Through the centuries, God has shaped the Church and then reshaped it, again and again, so that every generation may experience the Gospel in language it can understand. Throughout these changes, God has preserved His Word and Sacraments. Like the Church, we as individuals are in the process of being shaped by God. We are the clay. God is the potter. And just as He created us and all things, so one day in Christ will we and all things be re-created, and all that is now misshapen or broken will be restored.

**PSALM** 46

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES** *Jeremiah 18:4,6;*

*Romans 3:20, 26*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: By works of the law no human being will be justified in God’s sight.

**People: God is the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Pastor: Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.

**People: The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.**

Pastor: As You reshaped the Church at the time of Luther,

**People: reshape us in this generation, Lord, to love You with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves, all as a joyful response to Your first loving us.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Romans 3:23–24; 2 Corinthians 5:21*

Pastor: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**People: and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**

Pastor: God calls us to confess our sins. We observe a moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

 *A time of silence.*

Pastor: God, You formed us in the womb, and You shape our lives to love and honor You and our neighbors.

**People: Yet we are by nature sinful and separated from You. We sin against You in thoughts, words, and actions. For the sake of Jesus, who was tempted in every way as we are and yet without sin, we pray for Your forgiveness.**

Pastor: “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” Therefore, by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”* (*LSB* 909)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**FIRST READING** Revelation 14:6-7 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** Romans 3:19-28 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 8:31-36 *(bulletin insert)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

**HYMN** *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”* (*LSB* 656)

**SERMON “*Truth and Courage”***

# RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer.**

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PEACE OF THE LORD**

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”* (*LSB* 655)

 *“O Lord, We Praise Thee”* (*LSB* 617)

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN**

 *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* (*LSB* 805)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. You, O Lord, are the potter; we the clay. By Christ’s body and blood in this Sacrament, You shape us to be the Body of Christ. Send us out from this Table forgiven and restored, that we may freely bear the fruit of the Spirit in our lives; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“The Church’s One Foundation”* (*LSB* 644)

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**