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**Reformation**

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.” *Psalm 46:1, 11*

**AS WE GATHER**

Reformation Remembrance is sometimes treated as merely a nod to history for those who claim Luther’s legacy. But the great Reformation is not about recalling a hero. It is about reclaiming the Gospel in our own time. The once and eternal call is to “fear God and give Him glory” (Revelation 14:7). This fear is nothing less than faith, although it is more. It is respect for the Law that condemns our sin and trust in the Gospel that forgives us. It is reverence before the God who could have settled for being just but instead chose to be merciful. With joy, we claim the heritage and enjoin the responsibility of keeping this faith pure, vigorously proclaiming this faith both within and outside the company of the faithful.

**PSALM** 46

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Built on the Rock”* (*LSB* 645)

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

**THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Today we commemorate the great Reformation and lay claim to this legacy of pure doctrine and the zeal for the proclamation of this Gospel that grew out of this movement. We give thanks to God for His Gospel, for the doctrine that flows from that Gospel, and for Martin Luther who recalled the Church to its truth with such clarity and conviction. In the First Reading from Revelation, we hear the message the Church is given to proclaim until Christ comes again. In Romans, Paul gives clear explanation of what it means to be saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of John, we are taught that we are His disciples and free because we abide in His life-giving Word.

**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 the Collect)*

**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.**

**NICENE CREED** (*back, inside cover*)

**HYMN** *“By Grace I’m Saved”* (*LSB* 566)

**SERMON “*We Hold”***

**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**

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“Not What These Hands Have Done”* (*LSB* 567)

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

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. O gracious God, we give You thanks for having fed and nourished us by Your Word of life and the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that by Your Spirit we may keep in holy hearts, confess with holy lips, and display in holy lives the precious grace that has saved us without worth or merit on our part. Having received this truth faithfully from those who went before, grant us the will and desire to faithfully pass on this sacred treasure to those yet to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

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

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**