

Sunday, October 25, 2020  
Reformation Sunday  
Holy Communion

## **PRELUDE**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the + holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Source of all life,  
we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, + God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<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.

### **PSALM: 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.

<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.

## **GOSPEL: John 8:31-36**

The holy gospel according to John.

<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.

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504)

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.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land  
all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
they cannot overpower us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

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,  
through life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit.

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind (*especially*).

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way.

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill (*especially*).

In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel.

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.  
**Amen.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

We praise you, all-holy God,  
our maker, our lover, our keeper,  
our Covenant Lord, our Redeemer, the Strength of Truth,  
for the universe beyond our knowing,  
for seas and forests and fields,  
for the waters of Wittenberg and for fields and flowers of our own home,  
for creatures seen and unseen,  
for animals both wild and tame,  
for our ancestors and godparents from around the globe,  
and for the places we humans call home,  
for cities and churches and schools,  
for seminaries and missions and fellowship halls.

We praise you for your covenant people,  
for Moses and Miriam and Aaron,  
for Jeremiah and the psalmists,  
and for centuries of faithful Christians,  
for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul,  
for Luther, Melancthon, Muhlenberg, and Fedde,  
for Katie Luther and Cranach, Bach and Nicolai,  
Nommensen and Kierkegaard,  
Bonhoeffer and Hammar skjöld,  
for all servants of the Reformation.

We praise you, O God, for Jesus Christ,  
who saves us from sin and from evil,  
embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, setting us free,  
who on the night before he died,  
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.

*The body of Christ, given for you.*

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.

*The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

And so we remember your Word,

his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection,  
and his presence in this meal around the world.

We pray, O God, for your Spirit,  
your breath, your fire, your wisdom,  
your law, your grace, your freedom.  
You bless this meal and all those who share it;  
inspire your people for service;  
continue the reformation of your churches;  
and renew the world with your mercy,  
with your healing, your justice, and your peace,  
with the joy of life in your household.  
We praise you, all-holy God,  
the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit,  
mighty Fortress, victorious Champion, powerful Shield,  
today, tomorrow, and forever.  
**Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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**

Amen.

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504)**

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.

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,  
through life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Sound the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**If you have friends or loved** ones you would like included in the All Saints Sunday Worship on November 1, please call or email this information to the Church Office by Wednesday, October 28. Thank you.

**Sunday school Offerings at North New Hope-**

We will continue with the offering for ELCA Good Gifts to help purchase an animal or other items of need. The Sunday school children can put their offering in the jar in the back of the church where we have our offering plates. We will decide what to do when we total our money. We are resuming the 'noisy' offering today to help fund the Sunday school and its expenses. The pails will be at the back of the church with our offering plates. Thank you for your generosity!

**Sunday School Teachers needed at Faith-** Please let the Church Office know if you are interested in teaching and/ or leading the Sunday school at Faith. “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:16).

**Volunteers Needed at Faith: Can you help?** Faith is in need of volunteers to usher for in person worship. We are needing 3-4 volunteers each Sunday. These ushers will be needed to assist with checking people in, seating people, ushering them out and doing some quick sanitation, in addition to normal duties. Please sign up on the worship calendar outside the church office door, or let Tanya know if you are interested in helping. Thank you!

