

REFORMATION and CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



Do Not Fear: The Lord of Hosts Is with Us October 27, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Martin Luther's great hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is based on Psalm 46. When the psalm was first written, it gave courage to God's Old Testament people. Centuries later, when Luther wrote the hymn, the world was filled with plagues and death, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. Further, neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the government accepted the teachings of the reformers. Now, in our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists, political polarization, and church division. Because of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, we need not fear. Our gracious God is a very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the powers of the created world around us and the forces of evil from every source. From His throne flow streams of mercy to give us confident joy. We know that in the end "the kingdom ours remaineth."

+ Welcome and Announcements +

HYMN "Lord Help Us Ever to Retain" 865

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION page 272-274 8:00 AM

INVOCATION 11:00 AM

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

People: Amen.

APOSTLES CREED

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit, that they may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith that ever clings to their Savior. Deliver them from the power of Satan and preserve them from false and dangerous doctrines, that they may remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood. By the Lord's Supper strengthen them to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear the cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of their bodies to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Peace be with you.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Incorporating Psalm 46:4, 7, 11*

Pastor: Lord of hosts,

People: hear our confession of sins and grant us Your mercy and forgiveness. We have not trusted in Your promised protection and strength but have looked elsewhere for help and refuge. You alone have provided the remedy for that which truly causes our separation, troubles, and death. For the sake of Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from Your present help. We ask it in the name of Jesus.

Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. Because that river of grace and power has flowed over us in our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, in spite of our fear, the LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

By grace God has created each of us and everything that exists, and in the person of His Son entered our history and paid for our every sin and sin itself. In Christ's resurrection, God's promises have been made sure. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. The LORD of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!

(share the peace of Christ with those around you)

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, always present in trouble, silence our fears when Your good creation seems out of control and evil appears to run rampant. Like the dawning of a new day, dispel the darkness of our hearts and renew confident faith in Your constant presence and gracious protection; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING *Revelation 14:6–7* (An angel announces the time for judgment.)

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Romans 3:19–28* (We need not fear the Law’s accusation, for we are justified by grace.)

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed

over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Luke 12:32*

Pastor: Alleluia. Fear not, little flock,

People: for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 8:31–36* (We are freed from slavery to sin; we are free indeed.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY 8:00 AM "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens" 589
11:00 AM "Thy Word" 973

SERMON “Do Not Fear: the Lord of Hosts is with Us” Psalm 46

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Incorporating Psalm 46*

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for all people in their varied circumstances.

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, strengthen the Church here and wherever it gathers around Your Word and celebrates the blessed Sacraments. Grant confident faith to clergy and laity, pastors in congregations and missionaries in distant lands, elders in the faith and newly baptized alike. Help us to put all our trust in Your protection and power. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Strong Creator, wherever people call out to You as the earth gives way, mountains move into the heart of the sea, and mountains tremble, hear their cries and keep them safe. Awaken courage and wisdom in those who search and rescue, those who provide physical and spiritual counsel, and those who offer long-term support of body and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, use the earthly powers that be to move the nations and their leaders to seek ways toward peace with their neighbors and stability within their borders. You, who make wars cease to the end of the earth, provide courage and compassion to all who work for peace and protection as they are deployed abroad and all who maintain concord and order within our communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious God, stream joy and gladness to those who wait for the dawning of a new day, those dealing with long-term ills, unemployment, discrimination, unjust imprisonment, strife in their families, and the loss of loved ones, [*especially . . .*]. Assure them that You are with them, even now a very present help in trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of hosts, worthy to be exalted among the nations, into Your almighty hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray. Hear our prayer for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.**

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

People: **My Heavenly Father, I thank You, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved
Son, that You kept me safe from all evil and danger last night. Save me, I
pray, today as well, from every evil and sin, so that all I do and the way
that I live will please you. I put myself in your care, body and soul and all
that I have. Let Your holy Angels be with me, so that the evil enemy will
not gain power over me. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN **“A Mighty Fortress is Our God” 657**