

## **Worship Plan for Sunday, October 29, 2017**

Reformation Sunday

ELW Holy Communion Setting One

Sunday, October 29, 2017

### **Introduction to the day**

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them 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.**

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

*The reading may be announced:*

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.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 46**

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (*Ps. 46:7*)

<sup>1</sup>God is our ref- | uge 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 cit- | y 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. R**

<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 up- | on 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. R

## **SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28**

*The reading may be announced:*

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 reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

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

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

<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 concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the unity of your church. Free us to be Christ's one body, graciously receiving his life and boldly offering it to a world in need. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the renewal of creation: for a shared, plentiful harvest, for lands unable to bear fruit, for what is neglected or destroyed by our hand, and for the earth's advocates. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all nations of the world: for leaders of villages, cities, states, and nations, for lawmakers and judges, for teachers and students, and for all who work for peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who seek refuge and strength: refugees, the imprisoned, and those bound by addictions or burdened by guilt. We pray for the ill or injured (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for continual reformation in this and every assembly. In new beginnings, impart wisdom. In established traditions, inspire creativity. In all ministries, revive our hope in the one who makes all things new. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for your saints. United with them in the covenant of baptism, increase our faith in your promised life for all. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

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