



**8:30 Traditional Worship  
Sunday, October 29, 2023  
Reformation Sunday, Year A**

**Prelude**

Cello/Harpsichord      Sonata in B-flat major, I. Largo – Antonio Vivaldi

**Welcome**

**Gathering Hymn**

ELW #871      Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore

declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Kyrie**

ELW p. 147

## **Canticle of Praise**

ELW p. 149    *“This is the feast of victory”*

## **Apostolic 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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

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**

<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 46**

<sup>1</sup>God is our ref-<sup>1</sup>uge and strength,  
a very present<sup>1</sup> help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the<sup>1</sup> earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths<sup>1</sup> of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters<sup>1</sup> rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble<sup>1</sup> with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-<sup>1</sup>y of God,  
the holy habitation of<sup>1</sup> the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall<sup>1</sup> not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the<sup>1</sup> break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the<sup>1</sup> kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth<sup>1</sup> melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The Lord of<sup>1</sup> hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob<sup>1</sup> is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works<sup>1</sup> of the Lord,  
what desolations God has brought up-<sup>1</sup> on the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in<sup>1</sup> all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the<sup>1</sup> shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that<sup>1</sup> I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted<sup>1</sup> in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The Lord of<sup>1</sup> hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob<sup>1</sup> is our stronghold.

## Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

<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 Acclamation**

ELW p. 151    *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*

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

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Children’s Message**

**Sermon:** “Freedom” – Pastor Ruth Hamilton

## **Hymn of the Day**

ELW #517    Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

## **Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
    the Father, the Almighty,  
    maker of heaven and earth,  
    of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
    the only Son of God,  
    eternally begotten of the Father,  
    God from God, Light from Light,  
    true God from true God,  
    begotten, not made,  
    of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
    he came down from heaven,  
    was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
    and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
    who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
    who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the Church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict (*especially in Ukraine and in the Middle East*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer (*especially Woody King, Jean and Tony DeCouto, Faith Teem, Kathy*

*Bartelme, and those we name aloud or in our hearts*). Be their rest and comfort. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray for the young people receiving their First Communion today: Hattie, Charlie, Caitlyn, Madelyn, Eliza. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **Offertory**

Anthem      *Hear My Prayer* (Moses Hogan)

## **Offering Prayer**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **Holy**

ELW p. 153

## **Great Thanksgiving**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus 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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

## **Invitation to Communion**

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

## **Lamb of God**

ELW p. 154

## **Pre-Communion**

Cello/Harpsichord     Sonata in B-flat major, III. Largo – Antonio Vivaldi

## **Communion Hymn**

ELW #488     Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

## **Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace unto life everlasting.

**Amen.**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Announcements**

## **Benediction**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**



## **Recessional Hymn**

ELW #504     A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

Organ