

October 29-30, 2022

Festival of the Reformation (Celebrated)

IF YOU HOLD TO MY TEACHING, YOU  
ARE REALLY MY DISCIPLES. THEN  
YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH,  
AND THE TRUTH WILL SET  
YOU FREE.

THE FESTIVAL  
*of the*  
**Reformation**



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[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Holy and Triune God, we praise you today for the truth we find in your Word alone. Fill our hearts with praise at the good news of forgiveness in Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** We value freedom and strive to protect freedoms. But do we truly understand freedom? Freedom for many means doing what you want without control or coercion. Jesus helps us to understand true freedom: ***"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*** Living without Jesus' teaching ensures that we remain slaves to sin spiritually, emotionally, and eternally.

A key principle Martin Luther established through the Reformation is *sola scriptura*, Scripture alone. Luther thought it was the answer to all of life's fundamental questions. On what basis is a belief or practice justified or rejected? Scripture alone. Who or what is the final arbiter of truth? Scripture alone. Heirs of the Reformation still bind themselves to Scripture. God's divinely inspired truth brings freedom—from slavery to sinful delusions, from the burden of guilt, and from any earthly power. This week we see that when we willingly bind ourselves to truth, Jesus keeps his promise. The truth sets us free indeed.

***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Worship Leader: Pastor Jake Schramm

Piano/Organ: Luke Dorn

Choir Director: Roger Zolldan

Brass: Sophia Enter, Zander Gosch, Brian Shult, Ryan Wolfe

# Order of Worship



*Please remain seated.*

## **Reformation Responses**

M: In the name of the Triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen! Praise to the one and only God!**

M: It was in Eden that Satan destroyed the perfect relationship that existed between God and the crown of His creation. It was in Eden that man first sinned against God.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us. We have inherited sin. We have committed sin.**

M: It was also in Eden that God first promised a Savior. When the time was right, God acted. He sent His only-begotten Son into the world to do for His creatures what they could not do for themselves. Jesus Christ lived perfectly, died innocently, and rose again to restore unity between God and mankind. To renew the image that was lost in Eden.

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth! We shall not die but live and declare the praises of God.**

M: Satan was not finished. Throughout history, he has attacked God's people, the Church, with his wicked schemes. Through false teachers and diversions, he led many to neglect the pure Gospel. God preserved His Church, often quietly, sometimes with only a whisper. But even in the depths of darkness the light of grace flickered.. In the fourth century, as Satan attacked the deity of Christ the Church confessed:

**C: 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.**

M: In the fifth century, as the doctrine of the Trinity was attacked, the Church confessed:

**C: Now this is the true Christian faith: We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being. For each person -- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit -- is distinct, but the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.**

M: Through the centuries the battle continued. Often Satan seemed to be the victor. The Gospel seemed lost. Bibles were rare. Most people were seeking heaven by works. Yet the cry of God's people continued:

**C: Lord have mercy on us. Show us Your face, O Lord. Remove us from Satan's power.**

M: Then God raised up a man to be a messenger of the everlasting gospel. That man was Martin Luther. We do not praise him, but we praise God for him, that as his instrument God restored to His Church the good news about Jesus Christ. Luther wrote:

**C: Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, and I am Your sin. You became what you were not and made me to be what I was not.**

M: This is a service of thanksgiving on the Festival of the Reformation of the Church. Let us worship the Lord, who so graciously forgives sin and so wonderfully protects his children on earth!

## **HYMN: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

CW 862

### *Verse 1: Congregation and Choir*

**Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; curb those who by deceit or sword  
Would seek to overthrow your Son, and to destroy what he has done.**

### *Verse 2: Choir Only*

Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are Lord of lords alone;  
Defend your Christendom that we, may sing your praise eternally.

### *Verse 3: Congregation and Choir*

**O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth;  
Support in our final strife, and lead us out of death to life.**

*Choir Only* Amen, Amen.

*Please stand at the direction of the pastor.*

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

*From Luther's Small Catechism*

P: Confession has two parts. The one is that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution or forgiveness from the pastor as from God himself, not doubting but firmly believing that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven. Let us confess our sins:

C: **Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake, O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.**

P: By the authority of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated*

### Men's Chorus Anthem

### *Hold On to the Rock*

By Pepper Choplin

#### *Refrain 2x*

You've got to hold on to the Rock of Ages, *hold on to the Cornerstone.*  
Stand strong on the Sure Foundation, surrounded by the Fortress strong.  
When all the storms of life are raging, hold on, hold on, hold on, hold on,  
Gotta hold on to the Rock.

You know that it doesn't take a mighty earthquake to shake the ground you  
stand on  
'Cause life can change like a hurricane and blow all the plans you planned on  
Well, the ground is gonna shake and the wind is gonna blow  
Who you gonna trust and where you gonna go? (*Refrain*)

You know sometimes when life is easy it's so easy to keep the faith,  
To be grateful for ev'ry blessing, when ev'ry blessing comes our way  
But when life shakes us to our very soul,  
Who you gonna trust and where you gonna go? (*Refrain*)

You've got to hold on to the Rock, hold on to the Rock.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*The old covenant of law could tell people how to act but could not create the desire to freely do so. The new covenant of grace transforms people's hearts so they freely and joyfully follow God's will.*

<sup>31</sup>"The days are coming," declares the LORD,

"when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

<sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,"  
declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup>"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.  
I will be their God, and they will be my people.

<sup>34</sup>No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,"  
declares the LORD.

"For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading

Galatians 5:1-6

*The Apostle Paul urges us to stand firm in the freedom that we have in Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

<sup>2</sup>Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. <sup>3</sup>Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. <sup>4</sup>You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from

grace. <sup>5</sup>For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. <sup>6</sup>For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

John 8:31-36

*The truth of the Gospel sets us free!*

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

<sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: How Firm a Foundation

CW 800

*Verse 1: Congregation and Choir*

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

*Verse 2: Choir only*

Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

*Verse 3: Congregation and Choir*

**When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

*Verse 4: Choir Only*

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

*Verse 5: Congregation and Choir Descant*

**The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.**

**Sermon**

*Based on John 8:31-36*

***"Be Free Indeed!"***

- 1) Recognize the sin that masters us
- 2) Hold on to the Savior who mastered sin

*Please stand after the sermon.*

**THANKSGIVING**

**Confession of Faith**

*The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, and Luther's explanation*

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*What does this mean?*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.**



He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Be seated.

Offering



Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God’s work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren’t expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord’s Prayer

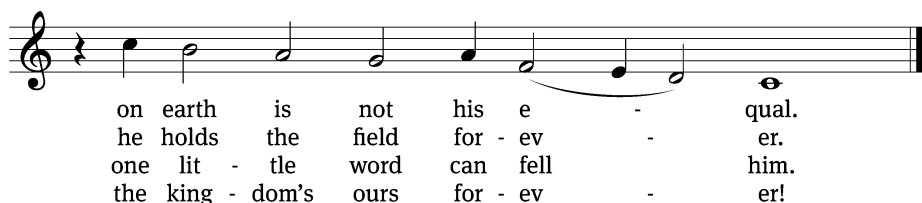
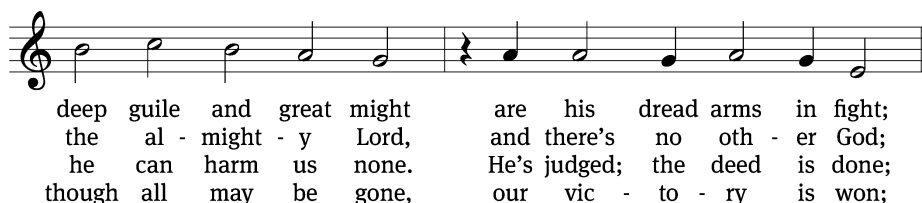
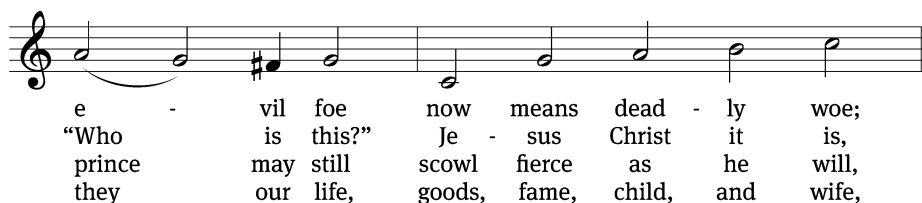
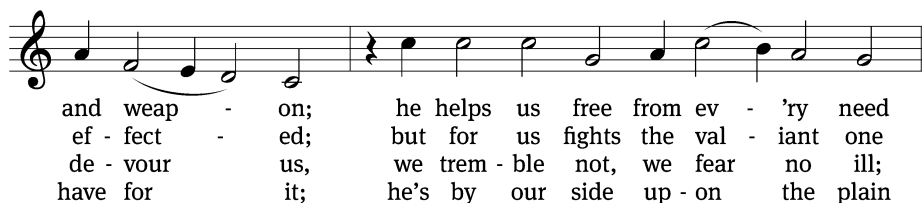
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: A Mighty Fortress

CW 863



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield  
2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss  
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to  
4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



## Closing Prayer

**M:** O God, you have called your servants to ventures of faith of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Hymn: God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

CW 640



God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -  
ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our  
chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it  
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its  
teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Door Offering for India Mission

### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

After worship, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins in the fellowship hall and Teen study begins in the youth room at the same time.

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: All Saints Day Celebrated - We feebly struggle, they in glory shine

Bible Readings: Revelation 21:1-6; Hebrews 11:32-40; Luke 6:20-23

Hymns: 885, 886, 889, 880, 884

# Welcome to worship!

## FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket at the entrance to the sanctuary or as it's passed during the service.

## FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

