



## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**Reformation Sunday**

**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 25, 2026**

**8:00 AM Traditional Worship**

**Pastor:** Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

**Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz

**Lector:** Sue Weum **Acolyte:** Slayton Hoverson & Myles Rostowfske

**Ushers:** TBD

**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God’s grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Almighty God, Your Word is Cast” Day/Miller**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Compassionate God,

**C:** We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**P:** Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

**C:** Amen.

*Stand*

**HYMN: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” #504 ELW vss. 1, 2 & 4**

**vs. 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.**

**vs. 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.**

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

**GREETING**

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

**C:** And also with you.

**KYRIE: page 120 ELW** (*front of the hymnal*)

**L:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation, let us pray to the lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**L:** Help, save, comfort,  
and defend us, gracious Lord,

**C: Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE: page 121 ELW** (*front of hymnal*)

**Refrain: Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory. Refrain...**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
Have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer. Refrain...**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Refrain...**

#### **SALUTATION**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** 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.

*Sit*

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

<sup>31-32</sup> “That’s right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new covenant with Israel and Judah. It won’t be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master.” God’s Decree.

<sup>33-34</sup> “This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their

God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about God. They'll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I'll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I'll forget they ever sinned!" God's Decree.

**P:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia!" page 124 ELW**

**Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia**

*The Gospel is announced...*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th Chapter

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Sit*

**GOSPEL: John 8:31-38**

<sup>31-32</sup> Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you."

<sup>33</sup> Surprised, they said, "But we're descendants of Abraham. We've never been slaves to anyone. How can you say, 'The truth will free you'?" <sup>34-38</sup> Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave can't come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through. I know you are Abraham's descendants. But I also know that you are trying to kill me because my message hasn't yet penetrated your thick skulls. I'm talking about things I have seen while keeping company with the Father, and you just go on doing what you have heard from your father."

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN: "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" #645 ELW vss. 1, 3 & 4**

**vs. 1: Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ, our head and cornerstone,**

**chosen of the Lord and precious,  
binding all the church in one;  
holy Zion's help forever  
and our confidence alone.**

**vs. 3: Here bestow on all your servants  
what they seek from you to gain;  
what they gain from you, forever  
with the blessed to retain;  
and hereafter in your glory  
evermore with you to reign.**

**vs. 4: Praise and honor to the Father,  
praise and honor to the Son,  
praise and honor to the Spirit,  
ever three and ever one:  
one in might and one in glory  
while unending ages run!**

#### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P:** Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

*A brief silence*

**P:** As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

*Sit*

**OFFERTORY: “Word of God, Come Down to Earth” Able/Long**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** God of creation,

**C:** you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

## **BLESSING**

**P:** The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances

through the interceding of the Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **SENDING HYMN: “Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word”**

**#663 ELW vss. 1, 3 & 4**

**vs. 1: Spread, oh, spread, almighty Word,  
spread the reign of God the Lord.  
Send forth our Creator's call,  
heaven's gifts extend to all.**

**vs. 3: Tell of God the Spirit giv'n  
now to guide us on to heav'n,  
strong and holy, just and true,  
working both to will and do.**

**vs. 4: Lord of harvest, great and kind,  
rouse to action heart and mind;  
let the gath'ring nations all  
see your light and heed your call.**

### **POSTLUDE: “Ein’ Feste Burg” Luther/Hopson**