



## **Reformation Sunday** **October 29, 2023**

### **Opening Hymn #774 WS** ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***

1. A mighty fortress is our God,  
A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need  
That has us now o'ertaken.  
The old evil foe  
Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.

2. With might of ours can naught be done;  
Soon were our loss effected.  
But for us fights the valiant One  
Whom God Himself elected.  
You ask, "Who is this?"  
Jesus Christ it is,  
The almighty Lord.  
And there's none other God;  
He holds the field forever.

3. Though devils all the world should fill,  
All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill:  
They shall not overpow'r us.  
This world's prince may still

Scowl fierce as he will,  
He can harm us none.  
He's judged; the deed is done!  
One little word can fell him.

4. The Word they still shall let remain,  
Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain  
With His good gifts and Spirit.  
And do what they will--  
Hate, steal, hurt, or kill--  
Though all may be gone,  
Our victory is won;  
The kingdom's ours forever!

### **Invocation**

**P:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### **Confession and Absolution**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**C: Amen**

## **Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis – sing**

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

1. Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;  
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within

3. Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **The First Lesson – Revelation 14:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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."

## Psalm of the Day- Psalm 46

### *Antiphon - WS pg. 33*

*Antiphon – In ev’ry age, O Lord, You have been our refuge.*

God is our ref- | uge and strength,\*

**a very present help in | trouble.**

Therefore we will not fear though the | earth gives way,\*

**though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea,**

though its waters | roar and foam,\*

**though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,\*

**the holy habitation of the | Most High.**

God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be moved;\*

**God will help her when | morning dawns.**

The nations rage, the kingdoms | totter;\*

**he utters his voice, the | earth melts.**

The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*

**the God of Jacob is our | fortress.**

Come, behold the works | of the LORD,\*

**how he has brought desolations | on the earth.**

He makes wars cease to the end | of the earth;\*

**he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the  
chariots | with fire.**

“Be still, and know that | I am God.\*

**I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted | in the  
earth!”**

The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*

**the God of Jacob is our | fortress.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*Antiphon – In ev’ry age, O Lord, You have been our refuge.*

## **The Second Lesson – 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 stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—<sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

## **The Gospel – John 8:31-36**

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup>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'?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

**P:** Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

**The Alleluia – sing**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **Confession of Faith – Apostles' Creed**

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

**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.**

**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.**

### **Hymn of the Day #377 (v. 1-6)**

#### ***Salvation unto Us has Come***

1. Salvation unto us has come

By God's free grace and favor;

Good works cannot avert our doom,

They help and save us never.

Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,

Who did for all the world atone;

He is our one Redeemer.

2. What God did in His Law demand  
And none to Him could render  
Caused wrath and woe on every hand  
For man, the vile offender.  
Our flesh has not those pure desires  
The spirit of the Law requires,  
And lost is our condition.

3. It was a false, misleading dream  
That God His Law had given  
That sinners should themselves redeem  
And by their works gain heaven.  
The Law is but a mirror bright  
To bring the inbred sin to light  
That lurks within our nature.

4. From sin our flesh could not abstain,  
Sin held its sway unceasing;  
The task was useless and in vain,  
Our guilt was e'er increasing.  
None can remove sin's poisoned dart  
Or purify our guileful heart,-  
So deep is our corruption.

5. Yet as the Law must be fulfilled  
Or we must die despairing,  
Christ came and hath God's anger stilled,  
Our human nature sharing.  
He hath for us the Law obeyed  
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed  
Which over us impended.

6. Since Christ hath full atonement made  
And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad  
And build on this foundation.

Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,  
Thy death is now my life indeed,  
For Thou hast paid my ransom.

## **Sermon Text – Romans 3:19-28**

### **Sermon**

*The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His  
Grace*

### **Offertory – sing**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

### **Offering of Thankful Hearts**

#### **Prayer of the Church**

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all ministers of Your Word. Help them rightly to preach Your Law so that all are held accountable to You without excuse and joyfully proclaim Your Gospel, that all would know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

**<sup>1</sup> O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth,  
Thy living finger never wrote  
That life should be an aimless mote,  
A death-ward drift from futile birth.**

P: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, look with compassion on all who are blind to the bondage of their sin. Open their eyes by the words of Jesus, and grant them the true freedom of sonship and a permanent place in Your household.

**Thy Word meant life triumphant hurled  
In splendor through Thy broken world.  
Since light awoke and life began,**



**Thou hast desired Thy life for man.**

P: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, be near to all who cry to You for healing of body and soul [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Grant them release from their afflictions according to Your will. Sustain their hope in the full and final healing that awaits them at the day of Christ's appearing.

**<sup>3.</sup> Thou cam-est to our hall of death,  
O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,  
To drink for us the dark despair  
That strangled our reluctant breath.**

P: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, sustain Your Church. Deliver her from error and preserve in her the proclamation of Your Gospel, that it would resound to every nation, tribe, people and language and that all may fear and give You glory.

**How beautiful the feet that trod  
The road that leads us back to God!  
How beautiful the feet that ran  
To bring the great good news to man!**

P: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, make us truly Your disciples. Keep us in Your Word, free us from all errors, and make our homes and families peaceful. Preserve all fathers and encourage them for their godly task, that children would be brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord.

**<sup>4.</sup> O Spirit, who didst once restore  
Thy Church that it might be again  
The bringer of good news to men,  
Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more,**

P: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all civil authorities, especially our president; Congress; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Protect them from the temptations that beset their offices, and grant them wisdom and courage to serve with integrity.

**That in these gray and latter days  
There may be those whose life is praise,  
Each life a high doxology  
To Father, Son, and unto Thee.**

P: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, we give You thanks for all Your servants who have departed this life in faith. We especially bless You today for the great reformers of Your Church who call us back to the Gospel and to the righteousness we have in Christ alone. Keep us in fellowship with them, and bring us at last to our heavenly home to see our Redeemer face to face; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **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.**

### **Sermon Hymn #369**

#### ***All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall***

1. All mankind fell in Adam's fall,  
One common sin infects them all;  
From sire to son the bane descends,

And over all the curse impends.

2. Through all man's powers corruption creeps  
And him in dreadful bondage keeps;  
In guilt he draws his infant breath  
And reaps its fruits of woe and death.

3. From hearts depraved, to evil prone,  
Flow thoughts and deeds of sin alone;  
God's image lost, the darkened soul  
Nor seeks nor finds its heavenly goal.

4. But Christ, the second Adam, came  
To bear our sin and woe and shame,  
To be our Life, our Light, our Way,  
Our only Hope, our only Stay.

5. As by one man all mankind fell  
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,  
So by one Man, who took our place,  
We all received the gift of grace.

6. We thank Thee, Christ; new life is ours,  
New light, new hope, new strength, new powers:  
May grace our every way attend  
Until we reach our journey's end!

### **Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **The Benediction**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine  
upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance  
upon you and give you peace.

## C: Amen

### **Closing Hymn #775** *Thy Strong Word*

1. Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia without end!

2. Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,  
Breathed Thine own life-giving breath.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

3. Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,  
And our lives our hopes confess.  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

4. From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

5. Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias,  
Alleluias without end!

6. God the Father, light-creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!

## **Silent Prayer**

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