

THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION OF THE CHURCH

November 5th, 2023



Dr. Martin Luthers „Santorei im Hause“. Nach einem Gemälde von G. Spangenberg.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn ----- O Lord, Look Down from Heaven

CW 205

1. O Lord, look down from heav'n, behold, And let your pity waken.
How few are we within your fold, Your saints by all forsaken;
True faith seems quenched on ev'ry hand;
Your Word is not allowed to stand.
Dark times have us o'ertaken.
2. O God, root out all heresy, And of false teachers rid us
Who proudly say, "Now where is he Who shall our speech forbid us?
By right or might we shall prevail; What we determine cannot fail;
We want no lord and master!"
3. Therefore said God, "I must arise—The poor my help are needing.
To me ascend my people's cries, And I have heard their pleading.
For them my saving Word shall fight And fearlessly and sharply smite,
The poor with might defending."
4. Defend your truth, O God, and stay This evil generation,
And from the error of its way Keep your own congregation.
The wicked ev'rywhere abound And would your little flock confound,
But you are our salvation!

Stand.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.



- M: If you want to engage profitably in the study of theology and Holy Scripture and do not want to run head-long into a Scripture closed and sealed, then learn, above all things, to understand sin aright.
- C: We are not sinners because we commit sin – now this one, now that one – but we commit these acts because we are sinners before we do so. That is, a bad tree and bad seed produce bad fruit, and from an evil root nothing but an evil tree can grow.**
- M: Today nothing is so common as turning right into wrong and wrong into right by employing all sorts of clever expedients and strange tricks.
- C: The worst enemies we have are lodged in our own heart and in our very flesh and blood. They wake, sleep, and live with us, as an evil guest whom we have invited into our house and now cannot get rid of.**
- M: We are utterly lost; from head to foot there is nothing good in us; we must absolutely become new and different people.
- C: God looks to this natural sin alone. You cannot drive it out with any law, with any punishment, though there were a thousand hells; God's grace alone, which cleanses and renews human nature, will have to sweep it away.**
- M: If God's wrath is to be taken from me and I am to attain grace and forgiveness, this blessing must be earned from Him by someone.
- C: For God cannot be kind and gracious to sin, and cannot remove punishment and wrath, unless sin has been paid for and satisfaction has been rendered.**

M: Now no one, not even an angel in heaven, was able to do away with the eternal, irreparable damage and the eternal wrath of God, which we had earned by our sins, except the eternal Person of God's Son Himself. And this he did by stepping into our place, taking our sins upon Himself, and answering for them as if He were guilty of them Himself.

C: **The Law lays my sins on me, but God takes them from me and lays them on this Lamb. There they lie well, better than on me.**

M: And God means to say: 'I see that sin weighs heavily on you and that you would have to break down under the heavenly burden; but I will relieve you of it, take the sin from off your back, and out of pure grace lay it on the shoulders of this Lamb.' Let this picture be precious to you: It makes Christ a Servant of sins, yea, a Bearer of sins, the lowliest, the most despised of men, who Himself destroys all sin and says: 'I am come to serve others, not to let Myself be served.'

C: **God says: 'I forgive you your sins for nothing, without any merit of your own – not because of your sorrow or because of your work.' For sin cannot be removed by us. Or, to put it this way, satisfaction for sin cannot come through our efforts; it comes through the efforts of the Son of God.**

M: Therefore as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn ----- All Glory Be to God Alone

CW 262

1. All glory be to God alone, Forevermore the highest one,
Who did our sinful race befriend And grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may his good will All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

2. We praise you, God, and you we bless; We worship you in humbleness;
From day to day we glorify The everlasting God on high.
Of your great glory do we sing, And to your throne our thanks we bring.
3. Lord God, our King on heaven's throne, Our Father, the Almighty One;
O Lord, the Sole-begotten One, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
True God from all eternity, O Lamb of God—to you we flee.
4. You take the whole world's sin away; Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
You take the whole world's sin away; Oh, listen to the prayer we say.
From God's right hand, oh, send today Your mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
5. You only are the Holy One; O'er all things you are Lord alone.
O Jesus Christ, we glorify You and the Spirit, Lord most high;
With him you evermore shall be One in the Father's majesty.

THE WORD

Salutation

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

First Lesson ----- Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

Now, when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. It had windows on its upper story that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day he would get on his knees and pray and offer praise before his God. He continued to do that, just as he had been doing before this. Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

They then went and asked the king about the decree. "Your Majesty, did you not sign a decree that anyone who prays to any god or person for thirty days except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the den of lions?"

The king answered, "Indeed I did. The order is established as a law of the Medes and the Persians that cannot be revoked."

Then the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you." A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the pit. The

king sealed it with his signet ring and the signet rings of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel's situation. Then the king went to his palace. He spent the night without food, and no entertainment was brought before him. But he could not sleep.

At dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions' den. As he came near the pit, he cried out in a fearful voice. The king said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God, whom you serve continually, able to rescue you from the lions?"

Then Daniel spoke with the king. "Your Majesty, may you live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions. They have not hurt me because he found me innocent in his presence. Also before you, Your Majesty, I have committed no crime."

Then the king was very glad and said that Daniel should be brought up from the pit. So Daniel was brought up from the pit, and he was unharmed because he trusted in his God.

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 46

CW p.84

Refrain

The mighty Lord is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

God is our refuge and strength,*
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way*
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam*
and the mountains quake with their surging.

Refrain

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,*
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;*
God will help her at break of day.

“Be still, and know that I am God;”
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- Galatians 5:1–6

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not allow anyone to put the yoke of slavery on you again. Look, I, Paul, tell you that if you allow yourselves to be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. I testify again to every man who allows himself to be circumcised that he is obligated to do the whole law. You who are trying to be declared righteous by the law

are completely separated from Christ. You have fallen from grace.

Indeed, through the Spirit, we by faith are eagerly waiting for the sure hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters. Rather, it is faith working through love that matters.

Verse of the Day ----- John 8:31,32

Choir: Alleluia! If you continue in my Word, you are truly my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.
Alleluia!

Stand.

Gospel ----- Matthew 10:16–23

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:

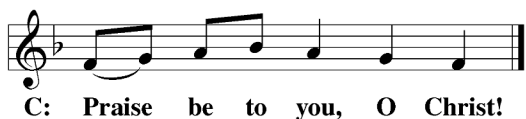


“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. In

fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

“Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



The Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

C: 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.

Hymn of the Day ----- Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

CW 203

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife,
And lead us out of death to life.

Sermon ----- Galatians 5:1-6

Christ Has Set Us Free

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Online giving option:

mluther.org/give

Offerings support the spread

of the Gospel here and around the world.



Prayer of the Church

*The minister offers the petitions and the congregation responds with “**Hear our prayer.**”*

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

M: 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. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

- M: 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. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: 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. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: 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. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: 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. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: 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. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Mighty Fortress, Rock of refuge, bless all who come to the altar to partake of Christ's own body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins. Grant them repentant hearts that seek to amend their lives, and by Your Spirit align them with Your will and purpose. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

C: Amen.

C: 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.

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Lift up your hearts.



M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who preserves his Church to the end of time when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

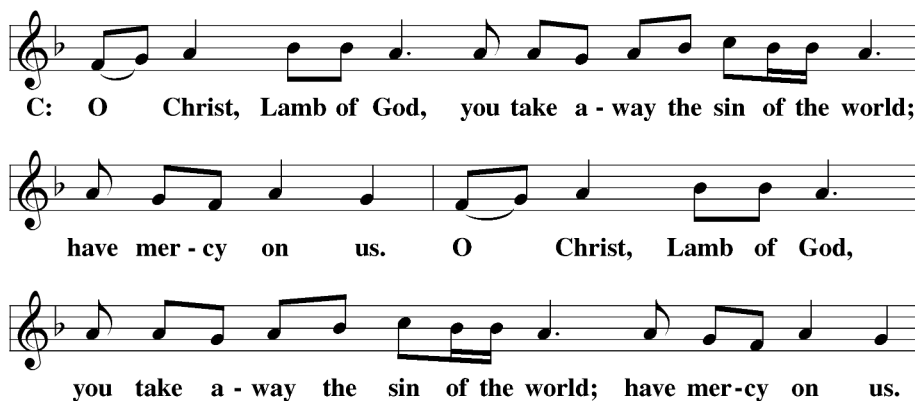
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei





Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only members would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ----- Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

CW 313

1. Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior, Turned away God's wrath forever;
By his bitter grief and woe He saved us from the evil foe.
2. As his pledge of love undying, He, this precious food supplying,
Gives his body with the bread And with the wine the blood he shed.
3. Jesus here himself is sharing; Take heed how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe, Judgment instead you shall receive.
4. Useless would be Jesus' passion If salvation you could fashion.
Do not come if you suppose You need not him who died and rose.
5. Christ says, "Come, all you that labor, And receive my grace and favor;
Those who feel no pain or ill Need no physician's help or skill."

6. Then hold fast with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken
By the souls who are distressed, By hearts that long for peace and rest.
7. Praise the Father, who from heaven Unto us such food has given
And, to mend what we have done, Gave into death his only Son.
8. If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses,
Surely you will be his guest And at his banquet ever blest.

Hymn ----- Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

CW 309

1. Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Offered was he for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.
2. He that his saints in this world rules and shields
To all believers life eternal yields,
With heav'nly bread makes them that hunger whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.
3. Come forward, then, with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
Before your altar, Lord, your servants bow;
In this your feast of love be with us now.

After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

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.



Be seated.

Hymn ----- A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
(next page)

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*Text of the Confession and Absolution is taken from Ewald Plass, What Luther Says, various
exerpts.*

*Cover: "Dr. Martin Luther's 'Choir at Home'" engraving after Gustav Adolf Spangenberg
(1828-1891)*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Tr. composite

EIN FESTE BURG (Rhythmic)

Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Setting by Jeffrey Blersch



All 1 A might - y for - tress is _____ our God, A trust - y
All 2 With might of ours can naught _____ be done, Soon were our
Choir 3 Though dev - ils all the world _____ should fill, All ea - ger
All 4 The Word they still shall let _____ re - main Nor an - y

shield and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry
 loss ef - fect - ed; But for us fights the val - iant
 to de - vour _____ us, We trem - ble not, we fear _____ no
 thanks have for _____ it; He's by our side up - on _____ the

need That hath us now o'er - take - en. The
 One, Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed. Ask
 ill; They shall not o - ver - pow'r _____ us. This
 plain With His good gifts and Spir - it. And

old _____ e - vil foe Now means dead - ly
 ye, _____ Who _____ is this? Je - sus Christ it
 world's _____ prince _____ may still Scowl fierce as he
 take _____ they _____ our life, Goods, fame, child, and

woe; Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in
 is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord, And there's none oth - er
 will, He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is
 wife, Though these all be gone, Our vic - t'ry has been

fight; On earth is not his e - qual.
 God; He holds the field for - ev - er.
 done; One lit - tle word can fell him.
 won; The King - dom ours re - main - eth.

