

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Serving Absecon - Galloway Township
Rev. Heidi Link – Pastor
Brian Conover - Music Director

Sunday, October 30th, 2022
REFORMATION SUNDAY / 10:00 AM

*** CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

Amen.

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven ✝ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*** OPENING SONG**

The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,

...song continues...

* - Congregation Stands (If for any reason you are unable to stand during the service, please remain seated.)



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

* GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray: 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 (*see back of bulletin for text*)

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 46

- ¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
- ³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- ⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
- ⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
- ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

(psalm continues...)

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
 what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
 who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
 I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**
¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

Refrain: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! (Repeat)

**Oh, how right it is to give thanks to Him, our creator and our king;
 We sing out our praise to the holy one; We rejoice, we rejoice in our God!** *(Repeat Refrain)*

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28 *(see back of bulletin for text)*

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
 2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
 3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad Je - sus lift - ed me,
 When I was in trou - ble, Sa - tan had me bound,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

*** THE WORD OF GOD: John 8:31-36**

A reading from the Gospel of John:

(see back of bulletin for text)

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON / DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

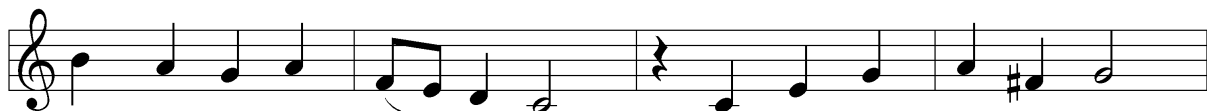
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



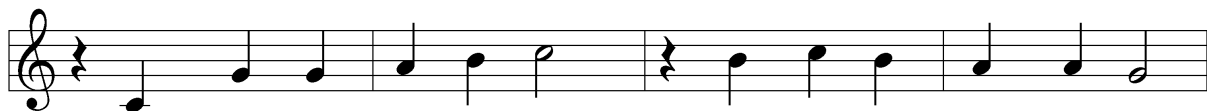
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*** 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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**

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.
A brief silence.

God our fortress, we pray for the church. Write your law of love on the hearts of your people, that we remain steadfast in our witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our liberator, we pray for your earth. Bring new life to overused land and contaminated rivers. Reform and reorient our relationship with the environment, that we faithfully care for all of your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God, our refuge and strength, we pray for the nations. Where they are in an uproar, bring wise leadership and comfort for those in distress. Make wars to cease and peace to enter every land. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God, our very present help in trouble, we pray for those in need. Show mercy to refugees and all fleeing from danger. Shelter any without homes. Calm all who are facing illness, surgery, or a new diagnosis (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our redeemer, we pray for our congregation. Bless all who are preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Open their hearts to your Holy Spirit, teach them your word, and give them courage to proclaim their faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

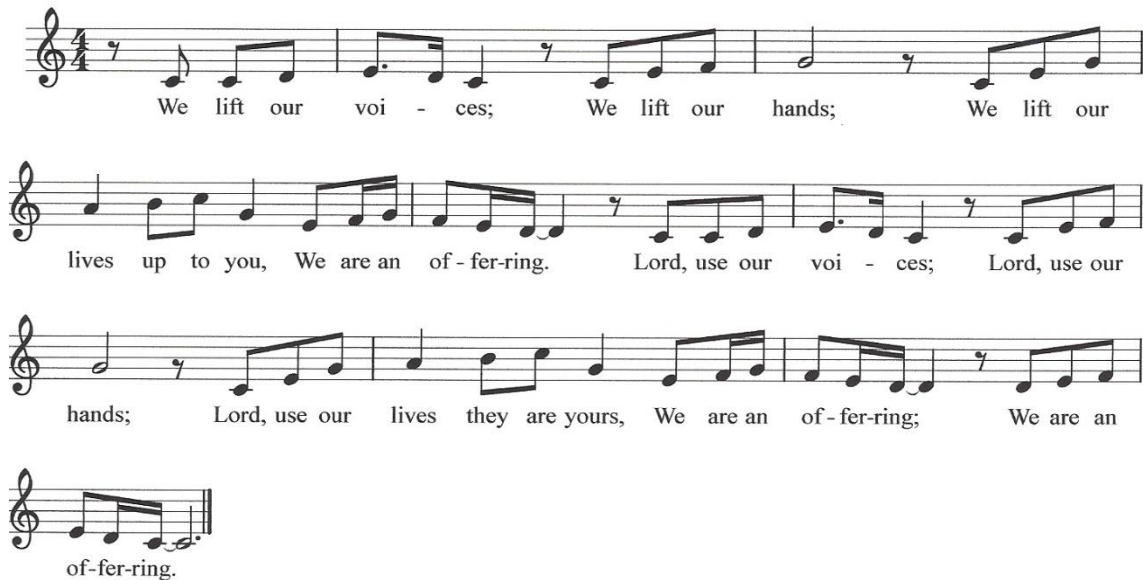
God our stronghold, we give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith, especially Martin Luther and all reformers. Renew and reform us as we strive to continue in your word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC

* OFFERING SONG - "WE ARE AN OFFERING"



The musical score is written in 4/4 time on a single treble clef staff. It consists of four lines of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "We lift our voi - ces; We lift our hands; We lift our lives up to you, We are an of - fer-ring. Lord, use our voi - ces; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives they are yours, We are an of - fer-ring; We are an of-fer-ring." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests.

* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **Amen.**

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

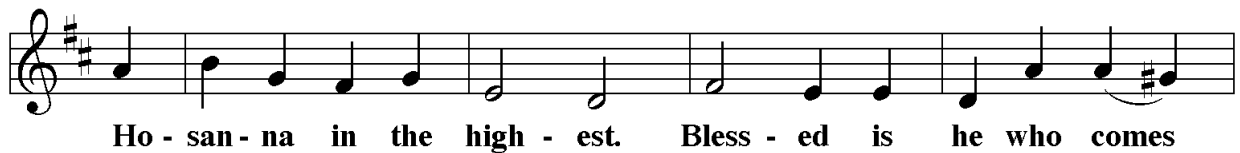
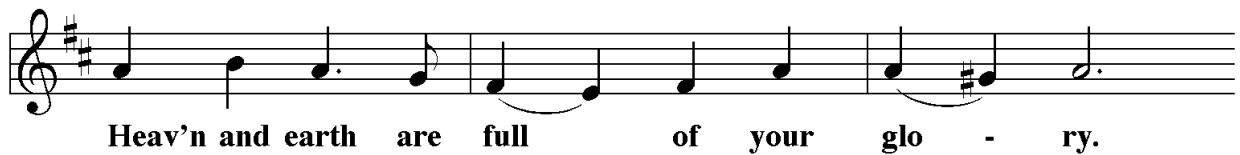
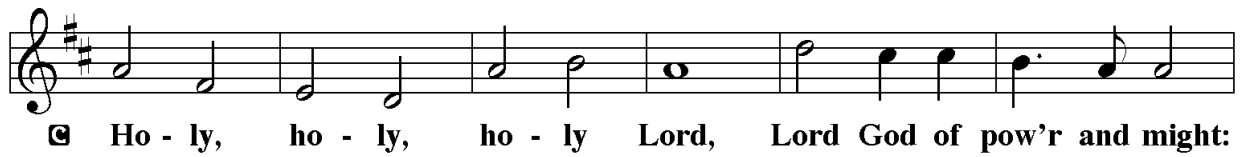
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

* 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

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

We come.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe that the risen Christ is present in the Eucharist to forgive sin and renew life are invited to either come to the altar area for communion as directed or share at your pew. If you come forward, you will receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine. If you choose to receive at your seat, please remain there, kneel as you are able, and receive the elements using the communion packets available from the ushers. If there are other special needs, please speak to an usher.)

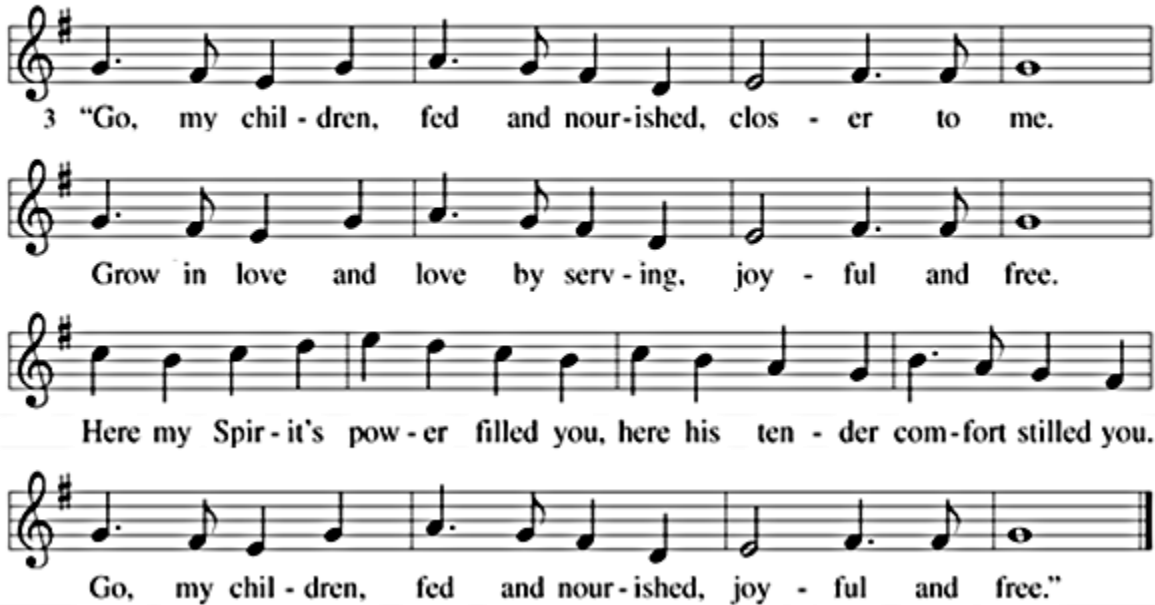
*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen

*** POST COMMUNION HYMN**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com-fort stilled you.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

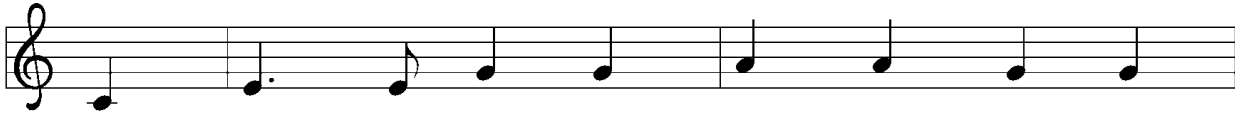
Let us pray: God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*** BLESSING**

And now a blessing: God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen.**

*** CLOSING SONG**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

*** SENDING**

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.