

Sunday, October 25, 2026
Reformation

Service Theme
IT'S TIME TO STAY STEADFAST

Jesus told His followers, "You will be hated by all people because of my name" (Matthew 10:22). Martin Luther wanted only to share the pure gospel, and for it both political and religious leaders sought his life. The Festival of the Reformation emphasizes our unfailing reliance on the Word of God. We give unflinching testimony to that Word, even in the face of persecution. Today we pray that the Lord would keep us steadfast in the faith.

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855 The Church's One Foundation

CW 855 sts. 1–5



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Order of Service – Service of the Word

(Old Hymnal)

INVOCATION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

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.

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.

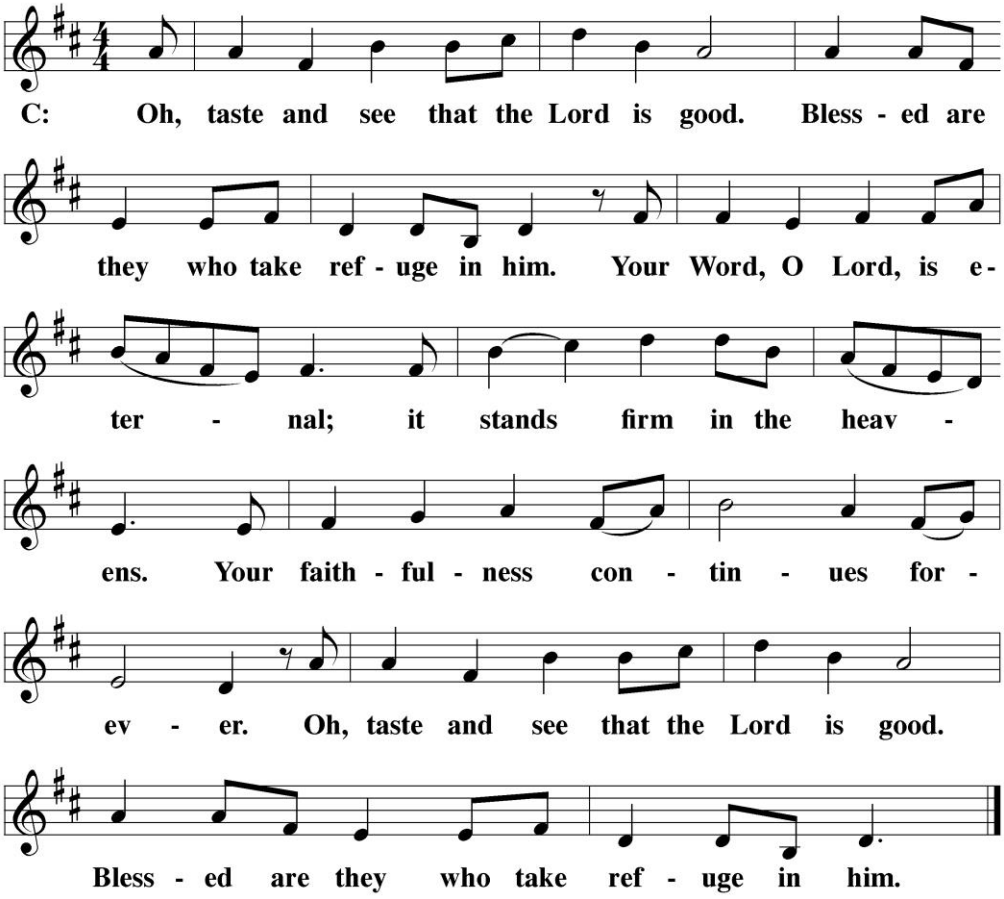
God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

(sing) Amen.

THE WORD

First Lesson

Daniel 6:10–12, 16–23 (EHV)

Even though it potentially meant death by lion, Daniel demonstrated steadfast faith and prayed to the Lord.

10 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. 11 Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

12 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."

16 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." 17 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. 18 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.

19 At dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions' den. 20 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?"

[21]Then Daniel spoke with the king. “Your Majesty, may you
live forever! [22]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.”
[23]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.

The Word of the Lord.

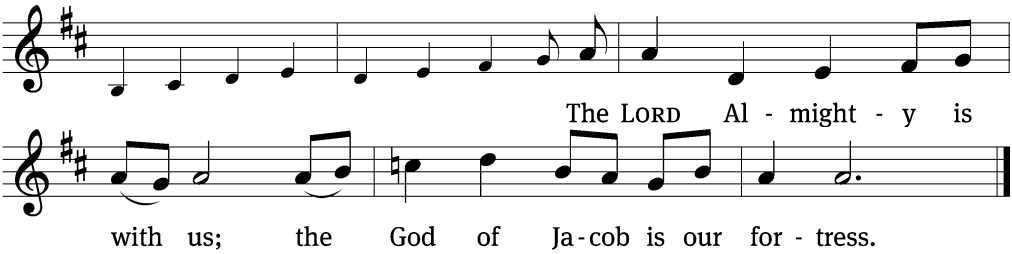
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 46A

The LORD Almighty Is with Us

Refrain



Tone



God is our ref- / uge 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 cit- / y 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 be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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Second Lesson

Romans 3:19–28 (EHV)

God justifies those who have been given the gift of steadfast faith in Jesus.

19 Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God's judgment. 20 For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.

21 But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.

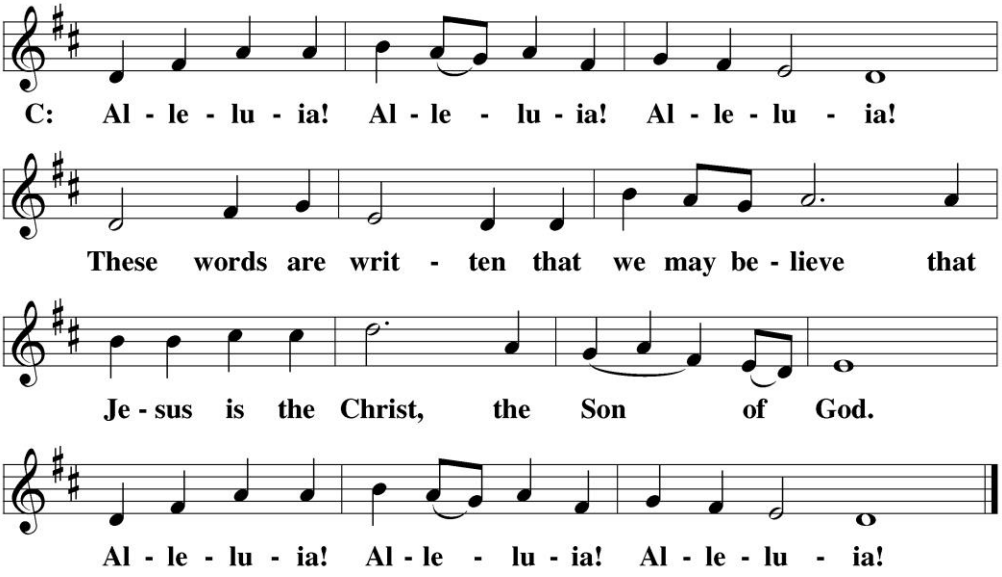
In fact, there is no difference, 23 because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished.

[26]He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time,
so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the
person who has faith in Jesus.
[27]What happens to boasting then? It has been
eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works?
No, but by the principle of faith. [28]For we conclude that a
person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day



Gospel Lesson

Matthew 10:16–23 (EHV)

The Lord keeps us steadfast and faithful through times of persecution.

16 “Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves.
So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. 17 Be
on guard against people. They will hand you over to
councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. 18 You
will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for
my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.
19 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. 20 In fact you will
not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will
be speaking through you.
21 “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. 22 You will be
hated by all people because of my name, but whoever
endures to the end will be saved. 23 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.



863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CW 863



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite. Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546. Text and tune: Public domain.

Sermon Text

Daniel 6:10–11

Calm Confidence in Christ…

1) Is worked in us through God's Word.
2) Moves us to Prayer.
3) Reveals God's power to the world.

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.

866 If God Had Not Been on Our Side *CW 866*



Prayer of the Church

Gracious God, in mercy you sent your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, into this world to redeem us from sin and rescue us from hell. Through your Scriptures and by your Spirit, you have brought us to faith in your Son and have assured us that Christ has fully completed the work of our salvation. Lead us to rejoice in the message of forgiveness through faith alone in Christ Jesus. When guilt grieves our consciences and shame squelches our confidence, use your Word to encourage and comfort our souls with the good news of your unconditional love.

Almighty God, in the face of immense pressure to compromise their confession, you emboldened Martin Luther and the Lutheran reformers to take a firm stand on the truths of Scripture. Through their clear confession of faith, you restored the gospel to your church and have preserved this saving truth among us today. Send us your Holy Spirit that we exhibit the same zeal and faithfulness as the Lutheran confessors. Give us courage to confess our faith sincerely and boldly in the classroom, the workplace, the community, and to everyone we encounter who needs to hear the truth of your Word. Use our confession to bring faith in your Son to the hearts of those who do not yet believe in you.

Eternal God, you have promised to preserve and protect your church in every age. Even when it appeared that the enemies of the gospel had silenced your truth, you kept your people faithful to you and your Word. Bless all who face hardships for their faith with an added measure of your Holy Spirit so that they do not lose heart as they bear their crosses. Comfort the sick and suffering, the depressed and lonely, those who are persecuted and ridiculed for their faith, and all others who need the encouragement of your love. Fix our eyes on the cross of your Son, his empty tomb, and the sure promise of eternal life in heaven's glory.

Lord God, you know the concerns of our hearts and minds. Hear the public prayers we have spoken with our lips and the personal prayers we offer to you in our hearts, and answer them according to your gracious will. Increase our trust in your power and wisdom that we may rest secure in the plans and purposes you have for our lives; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

The 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.

Final Prayer

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



870 O Church, Arise

CW 870



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Announcements

Church Cleaners

November 1 – Peter / November 8 – Barnabas

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (25)	**9:00 am**	**Sunday School / Bible Class**
	10:30 am	**Worship**
	Evangelism Meeting (after worship)	
Mo–We (26–28)		*Pastors Conference in Orleans*
Fr (30)	3:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (Online)
Sa (31)	10:00 am	Bible Information Class
Su (1)	**9:00 am**	**Sunday School / Bible Class**
	10:30 am	**Worship**
	Anniversary/Reformation Potluck (after worship)	
	3:00 pm	**Worship in Poltimore**
	4:00 pm	**Youth Confirmation in Poltimore**
Mo–Th	*(2–5)*	*WELS-Canada AGM*
Fr (6)	3:00 pm	Women's Bible Study (Online)
Sa (7)	10:00 am	Bible Information Class
Su (8)	**9:00 am**	**Sunday School / Bible Class**
	10:30 am	**Worship**

Acknowledgments

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