

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 26, 2025

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Jesus the Christ—the good news—that makes us free! Though we give thanks for the events of the sixteenth-century Reformation that brought renewal to the Church of that time, we pray that the Holy Spirit will unite the Church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of Holy Baptism, we are made one body; we pray for the day when all Christians will also be one at the Lord's Table.

Prelude

Fugue in D Minor

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

completed Rudolf Lutz

Echo Dialogue

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

ENTRANCE RITE

Processional Hymn

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,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



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,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



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?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



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.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

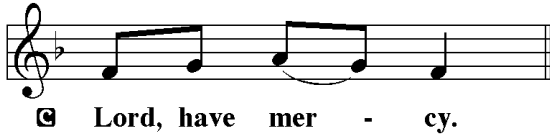
Apostolic Greeting

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

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: 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.



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



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Hymn of Praise



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

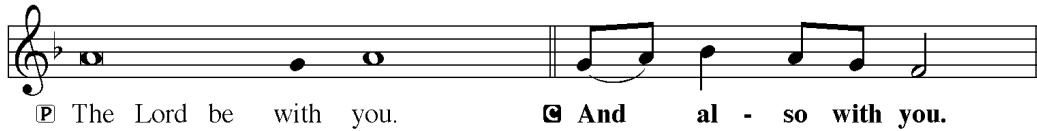
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day



P: Let us pray.

ALL: **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 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Jeremiah 31:31-34

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives.
The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin.*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 46

(sung in unison)

The earth may be moved and kingdoms shaken, but God is our refuge.

¹God is our ref-¹uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths¹ of the sea;

³though its waters¹ rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble¹ at its tumult.

⁴The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.

⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-¹y of God,
the holy habitation of¹ the Most High.

⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be¹ overthrown;
God shall help her at the¹ break of day.

⁷The nations make much ado, and the king-¹doms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall¹ melt away.

⁸The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.

⁹Come now and look upon the works¹ of the LORD,
what awesome things he has¹ done on earth.

¹⁰It is he who makes war to cease in¹ all the world;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the¹ shields with fire.

¹¹"Be still, then, and know that¹ I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted¹ in the earth."

¹²The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.

Second Lesson - Romans 3:19-28

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the proclamation of Martin Luther and the other Reformation leaders.
No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought
into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in our Lord's death and resurrection.
This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus the Christ.*

Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Procession

The congregation stands.

Those in the front are asked to turn and face the procession as it moves to the center of the nave.

Sung by ALL:

***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!***

tune: Ebenezer

Holy Gospel - John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

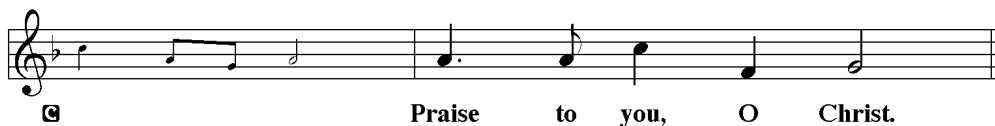


*The Reformation sought to emphasize that true freedom is not related to ethnic distinctions or social class.
Only Christ can free us from slavery to sin, which he does through the truth of the gospel.*

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."



P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sung by **ALL:**

***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!***

tune: *Ebenezer*

Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

The Creed

P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we love:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The Prayers

- A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
- A: Free your Church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Empower us to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Help us preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our political leaders with a common mission and purpose. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill. Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints. Give us hope in your Son's victory through the cross. God of grace,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ALL: Amen**

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

- P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: And also with you.**

Offering

Offertory Anthem

Rejoice! The Lord Your God Is with You

Tom Trenney (b. 1977)

*Rejoice! The Lord your God is with you! Rejoice and sing!
The Lord your God is with you wherever you go. The Lord your God is in your midst.
The mighty one will save you. God will delight in you.
Rejoice! The Lord your God is with you! Rejoice and sing!
For God will rejoice in you. The Lord will quiet you. You will rest in God's love.
Rejoice! For God will sing and be joyful. God will rejoice in you. Sing your joy! Rejoice in God!
(after Zephaniah 3:14-17)*

Offertory



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Consecration of Pledges

P: God of abundance, you have poured out upon us a large measure of earthly blessings.

C: We are created by you, O God, so that together we can make a world of difference.

P: Teach us to set our hearts on you as we share our lives with others.

C: Grant us wisdom and strength to grow in faith to serve as we carry out our mission “to care actively in the name of Jesus Christ.”

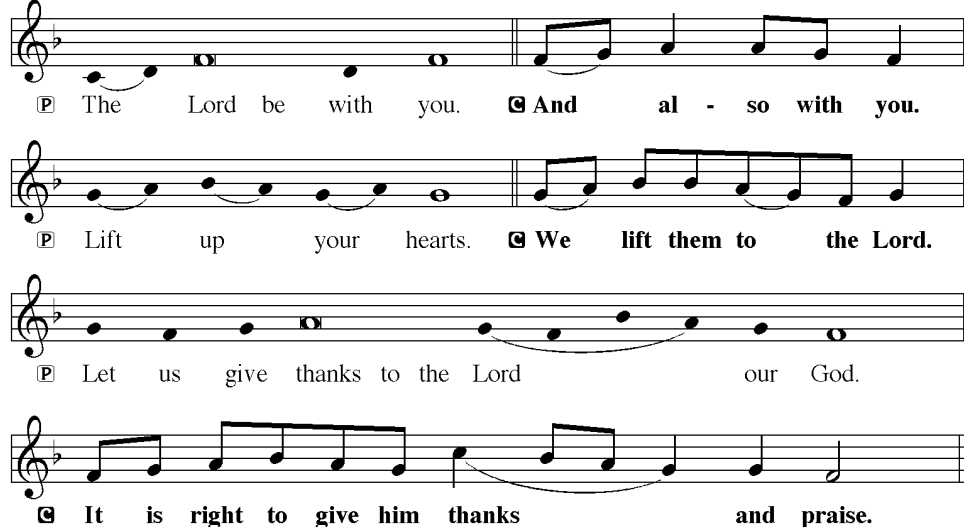
P: Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us –

C: our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.

P: We consecrate to your glory these our pledges of time, talents, and treasure – our gifts of love and generosity.

C: We pray that you receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

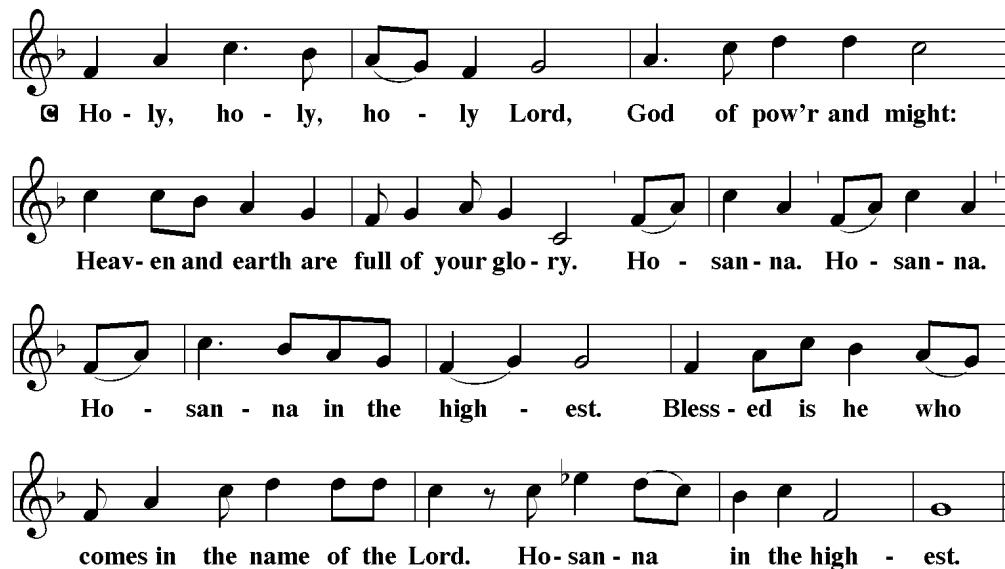
Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Proper Preface

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en 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 who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

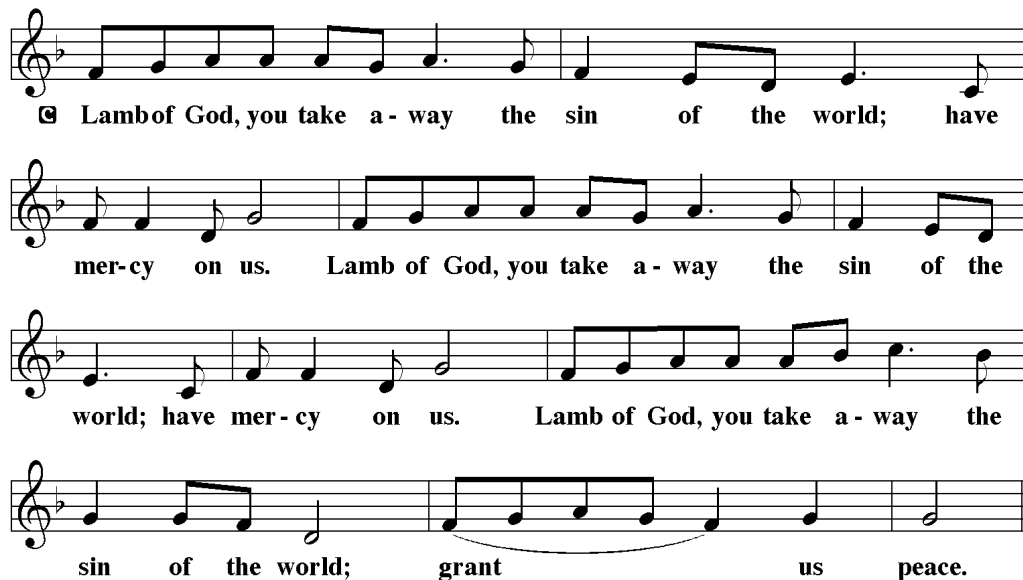
Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**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**

Communion with our Risen Lord

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer- cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer- cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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 -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



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
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



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.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

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

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
 His cross stands empty to the sky.
 Let streets and homes with praises ring.
 In death his love shall never die.</p> | <p>3 Not throned afar, remotely high,
 Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
 But daily, in the midst of life,
 Our Savior with the Father reigns.</p> |
| <p>2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
 To distant years in Palestine,
 He comes to claim the here and now
 And conquer ev'ry place and time.</p> | <p>4 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
 Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
 He suffers still, yet loves the more,
 And lives, though ever crucified.</p> |
| <p>5 Christ is alive! Ascended Lord –
 He rules the world his Father made,
 Till, in the end, his love adored
 Shall be to all on earth displayed.</p> | |

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, alt.
 Tune: Truro

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Post-Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen

Post-Communion Canticle



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we speak with a love-filled voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen

Benediction



Almighty God, Father, $\dagger$ Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. A - men

Hymn

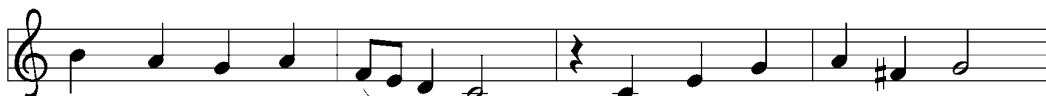
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



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*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Solemn Processional

Richard Strauss (1864-1949)

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by April Whalen
in honor of Cheryl Gerlich's birthday.

The candles are given to the glory of God
in memory of Nancy and Lee Trent's wedding anniversary.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY		
Sunday, October 26	9:00 a.m.	Gifts Festival Breakfast
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Church School (age three - grade five)
	10:30 a.m.	Reformation Sunday Festival Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	3:30 p.m.	Junior & Senior Youth (grades six - twelve)
	4:30 p.m.	Trunk or Treat (Holy Trinity Parking Lot)
Monday, October 27	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	7:00 p.m.	Connecting with God (via Zoom) - <i>Know God - Know Self</i>
Tuesday, October 28	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study - <i>Romans</i>
	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, October 29	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	5:30 p.m.	Fall Seminar - <i>The Bible tells Me So</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, October 30	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
	11:00 a.m.	Discussion Group - <i>Living The Questions</i>
Friday, October 31	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	11:00 a.m.	Book Discussion Group - <i>Miracles and Wonders</i>
Saturday, November 1	10:00 a.m.	Altar Guild
Sunday, November 2	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion and All Saints' Sunday Commemoration
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	9:30 a.m.	Holy Trinity Youth
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion and All Saints' Sunday Commemoration with Livestream via YouTube
	11:30 a.m.	Soup Luncheon
	6:00 p.m.	God In Film

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Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity

*President: Eric R. Kenny
Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene
Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson
Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff*

*Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts
Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:
Susan H. Williams
Sextons: Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington*

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