

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 25, 2026

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 followers of the risen Christ will also be one at the Lord's Table.

Prelude

*Sonata in C Major
Prelude and Fugue in D Major*

Daniel Speer (1636-1707)
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.

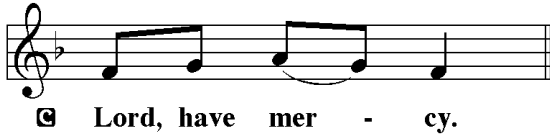
Apostolic Greeting

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,

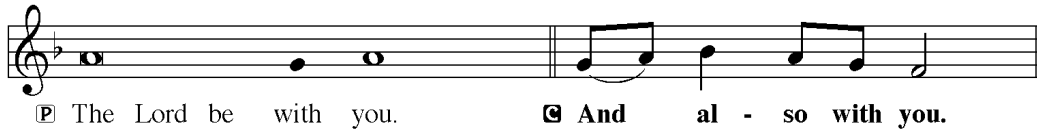
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was

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, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort us in all temptations, defend us against all our 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. 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.

Psalm 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 preaching 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.

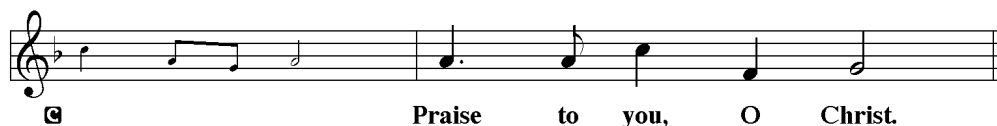


*The Reformation sought to emphasize that true freedom is not related to ethnic distinctions or social class.
Only Christ can free us from slavery to sin, which he does through the truth of the gospel.*

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*

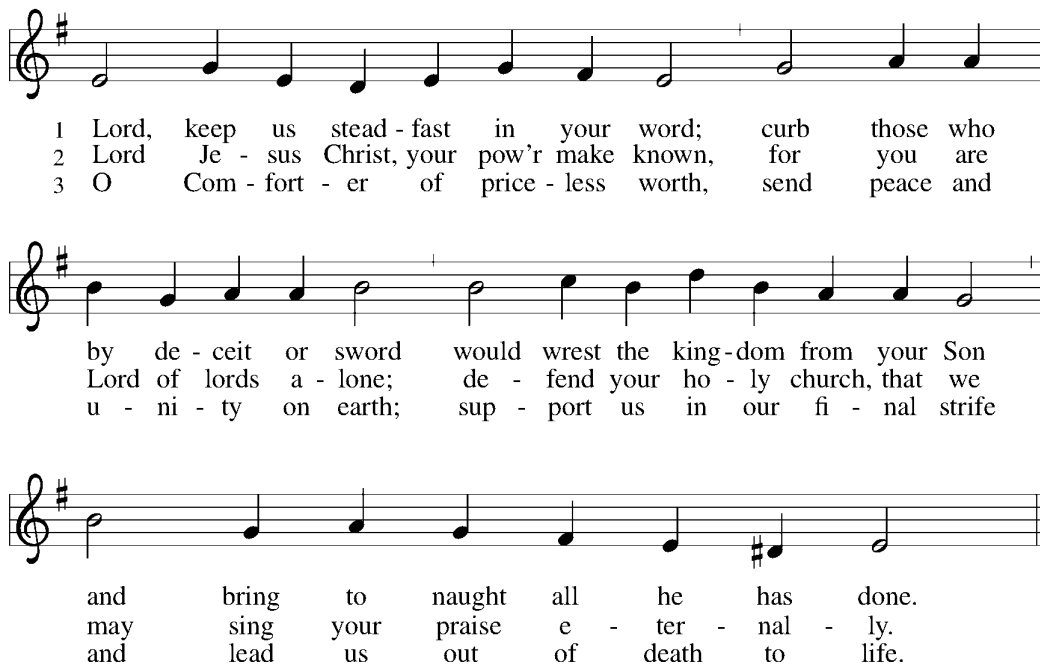
Sermon

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 believe:

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: God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your beloved son Jesus of Nazareth. Guide us to heal the Church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of the Christ. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Help us bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is discord, injustice, war, or religious conflict. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer. Be their rest and comfort. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. Stir in us a desire for your wisdom. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of Martin Luther and other reformers, and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace,
- C: hear 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

Christ Goes Before

Carl Schalk
(1929-2021)

Christ goes before, and we are called to follow,
and all who follow find the Way, the Truth, the Life.

Where is that Way we near despaired of finding:
the way that comes from God and leads to God,
the realm where God is love and love is King,
a whole new order for a world astray?

Who wants to live where there's no love like this?
Is this the Kingdom we are ready for and desperate to find?

Christ goes before, and we are called to follow,
and all who follow find the Way, the Truth, the Life.

Where is that Truth we near despaired of knowing:
the truth that comes from God and leads to God,
the power to set us free, the power to change,
that faces Pilate and the cross and wins?

Who wants to live where there's no peace like this?
Is this the Power we are ready for and desperate to know?

Christ goes before, and we are called to follow,
and all who follow know the Way, the Truth, the Life.

Where is that Life we near despaired of having:
the life that comes from God and leads to God,
the hope of glory only Christ can give,
that shatters death and grief with Easter joy?

Who wants to live where there's no joy like this?
Is this the Glory we are ready for and desperate to have?

Christ goes before, and we are called to follow,
and all who follow have the Way, the Truth, the Life.

(Text: Jaroslav Vajda, 1919-2008)

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, to let the light of your love shine through us in service and generosity.

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 and serve you as we carry out our mission “to care actively in the name of Jesus Christ.”

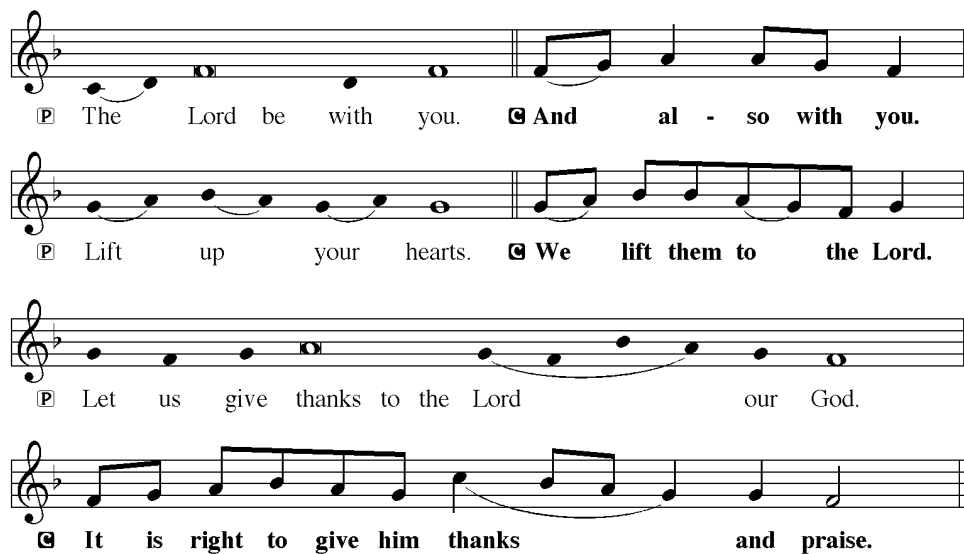
P: Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us –

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.

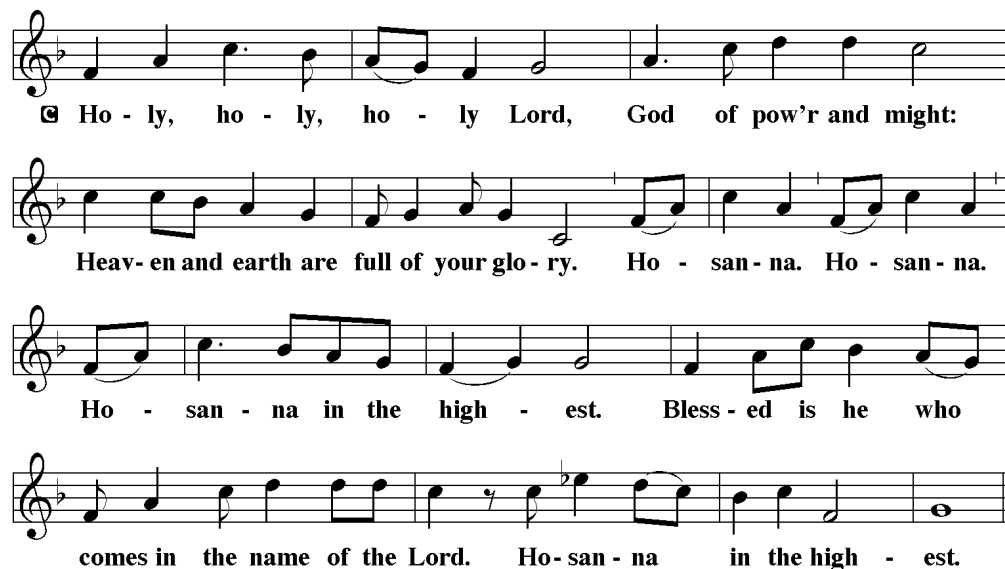
♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.

♩ 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.

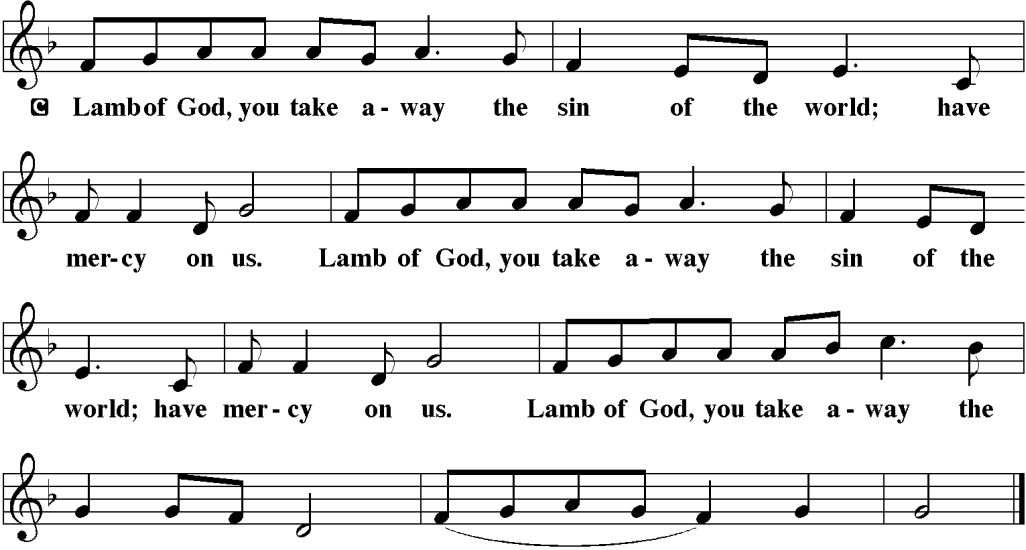
Eucharistic Prayer

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

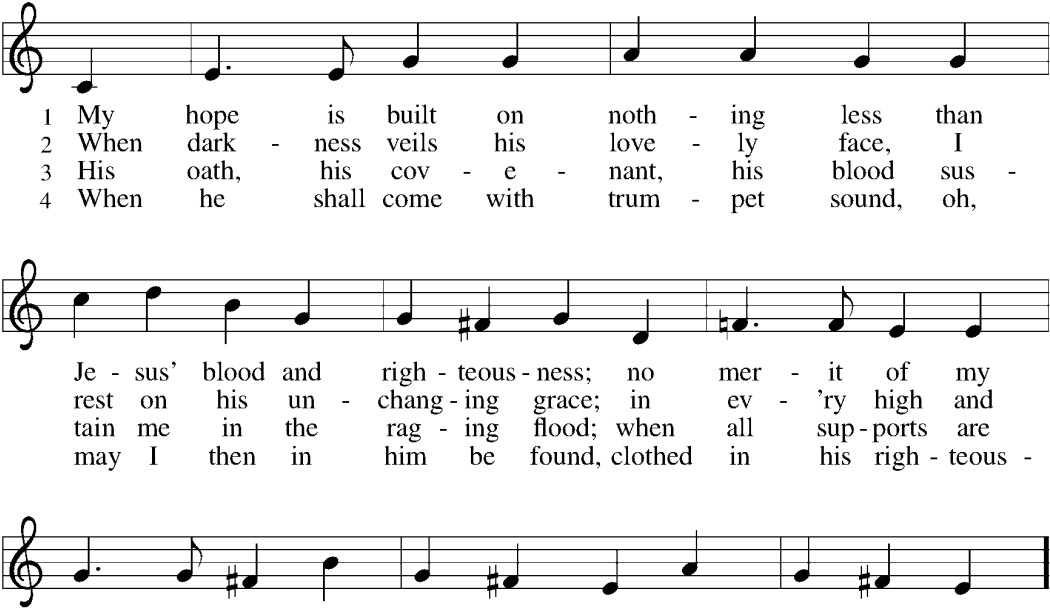
Agnus Dei



☞ 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.

Hymns

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.

Beautiful Savior



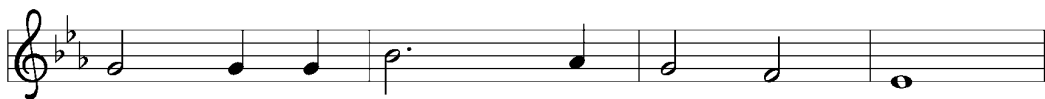
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Lift High the Cross

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
 Till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
 Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign.
 The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*
- 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
 Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree.
 As thou hast promised. Draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
- 5 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
 Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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, ✠ Son, ☩ A - men
and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever.

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. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Grand Choeur

Théodore Dubois
(1837-1924)



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Wilma and Les Beebe
in honor of the first anniversary of Keegan and Samantha Beebe.

The candles are given to the glory of God by April Whalen
in honor of the birthdays of Cheryl and Karl Gerlich.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, October 25 <i>Reformation</i> <i>Sunday</i>	9:00 a.m.	Gifts Festival Breakfast
	10:30 a.m.	Festival Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	3:30 p.m.	Junior & Senior Youth Groups (grades six to twelve)
	4:30 p.m.	Trunk or Treat (birth to grade five)
Monday, October 26	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	7:00 p.m.	Connecting with God - <i>Know God - Know Self</i> (via Zoom)
Tuesday, October 27	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Table Talk - <i>Reformation Roots</i>
Wednesday, October 28	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	5:30 p.m.	Fall Seminar - <i>Eclipsing Empire</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, October 29	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
	11:00 a.m.	Discussion Group - <i>First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God</i>
Friday, October 30	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	11:00 a.m.	Book Discussion Group - <i>Separation of Church and Hate</i>
Sunday, November 1 <i>All Saints'</i> <i>Day</i>	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion & All Saints' Commemoration
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion & All Saints' Commemoration with Livestream via YouTube
	2:00 p.m.	Pastor's Information Class
	5:00 p.m.	Senior Youth Group (grades nine - twelve)
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class (grades six and above)

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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**

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President: Deb Serio
Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene
Parish Administrator: Ellie Quillen
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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