

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, October 25, 2020: Reformation Sunday

Gathering

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” —Matthew 18:20

Welcoming

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” #504

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
2. No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God’s only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.
3. Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat’ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot over pow’r us.
Let this world’s tyrant rage;
in the battle we’ll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God’s judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.
4. God’s Words forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it.
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom’s ours forever!

Greeting:

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.

Prayer of the Day

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 you're saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

Reading: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, **a very present help in trouble.**

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, **though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

though its waters roar and foam, **though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

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

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; **God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; **he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

The LORD of hosts is with us; **the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Come, behold the works of the LORD; **see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; **he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, and know that I am God! **I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”**

The LORD of hosts is with us; **the God of Jacob is our refuge**

Reading: Romans 3:19-28

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.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 8:31-36 (*response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord***)

Then 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.

*(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)*

Message

Hymn: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" #517

1. Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, 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.

Text: Martin Luther; Music: J Klug © Public Domain

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.

Offering/Offertory “Create In Me a Clean Heart” #188

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.

Music: J.A. Freylinghausen. Public Domain

Prayers

Lord’s Prayer

Sharing the Peace *Please share a sign of peace with one another*

Announcements

Sending

Hymn: “How Firm a Foundation” #796

1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid.
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”
3. “When through fi’ry trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”
4. “Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov’rign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.”

Text: J. Rippon, Music: Early American. Public Domain.

Benediction

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Remember in your prayers

Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support. Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChappelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.