

REFORMATION SUNDAY

HOLY COMMUNION

25 October 2020

GATHERING

OPENING HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

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 overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.
4. God's Word 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!

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THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

“Now the Feast”

Refrain:

**Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life
and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!**

1. Now is the feast

of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God.

Refrain

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: 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 us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us
in times of trial, defend us against all dangers, 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

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WORD

ANTHEM

traditional

“We Are Marching in the Light of God / This Little Light of Mine”

THE 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. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

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* **ALLELUIA VERSE**

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

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THE GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word.
He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

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CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

Pastor Melinda Wagner

HYMN OF THE DAY “The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

1. The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.
2. Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.
3. Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.
4. For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.
5. We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: Gathered together as God's people in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each petition...

Assistant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting
in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

OFFERTORY REFLECTION

SETTING THE TABLE

Refrain:

**As the grains of wheat
once scattered on the hill
As the grains of wheat once
scattered on the hill
were gathered into one
to become our bread;
so may all your people
from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

1. As this cup of blessing
is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love.

Refrain

2. Let this be a foretaste
of all that is to come
when all creation shares
this feast with you.

Refrain

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Holy God, our hope and our salvation...

...All honor and glory is yours, O God, now and forever.

People: Amen

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

Pastor: We are all God's beloved children, and the risen Christ welcomes us to this holy meal.

The body of Christ is given for us. The blood of Christ is shed for us.

A brief time of quiet reflection...

BLESSING

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

People: **Amen**

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God,

People: **that at your table you satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of Word, bread and wine, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus Christ, our servant Lord. Amen**

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SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, **☩** guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

People: **Amen**

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CLOSING HYMN**“Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen”**

1. Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,
from this meal of love and grace;
may we through such love envision
whose we are, and whose, our praise.
Alleluia, alleluia;
God, the wonder of our days.
2. Rise, transformed,
and choose to follow
after Christ, though wounded, whole;
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed
to release and to console.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Christ, our present, past, and goal.
3. Rise, remember well the future
God has called us to receive;
present by God’s loving nurture,
Spirited then let us live.
Alleluia, alleluia;
Spirit, grace by whom we live.
4. Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination
from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Rise, O church, a living faith.

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SENDING

Assistant: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

People: **Thanks be to God!**