

REFORMATION SUNDAY
October 26, 2025
“Going Home the Righteous Way”

AS WE GATHER

In speaking of the message of the Reformation, Martin Luther stated: “All I have written and taught has been according to my conscience and sworn duty as a humble teacher of the Holy Scripture, for the praise of God, for the benefit and salvation of all Christendom.” He knew the message was much more than the man. He wanted his hearers to be assured of their salvation, which is alone in Christ, the Messiah. Through his sermons and hymn texts and writings, he presented the Gospel simply and directly. Today we honor and celebrate his faithful rediscovery of that Good News! Luther’s three main themes were:

We are saved by God’s **Grace Alone**, through **Faith in Jesus Christ Alone**.
Scripture Alone (God’s Word) is the ultimate authority on God and our life with Him.

Luther’s attempts to reform the Roman Catholic church from within failed, but through Luther God restored the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the focus of Christian faith and life.

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #909 *“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”*



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they
△ 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er
to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter
Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: O almighty God,

C: Merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 46 (NIV)

P: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

C: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

P: though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

C: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

P: God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

C: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts.

P: The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

C: Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations He has brought on the earth.

P: He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire.

C: He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

P: The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #946 "Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise"



1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
 Δ 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
 Who with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

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THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, 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.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE FIRST READING Revelation 14:6-7 (ESV)

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Romans 3:19-28 (ESV)

Now we know that whatever the Law says it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the Law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the Law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the Law, although the Law and

the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood *[the sacrifice to pay for sin]* to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE *(page 156 in the hymnal)*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #656 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main

A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;

He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain

That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,

dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,

Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -

is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main eth.

THE SERMON *“Going Home the Righteous Way”* Text: Luke 18:9-14

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #704 *“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”*

1) Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.

3) Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(Each petition concludes with the following response: “Let us pray to the Lord,” “**Lord, have mercy.**”)*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. *(1 Corinthians 11:26)*

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *(Revelation 22:20)*

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

THE PEACE

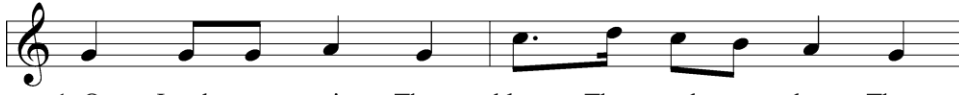
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
 2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
 3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
 Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
 That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
 love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
 geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
 Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
 blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

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#566 "By Grace I'm Saved"



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

**5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?**

**6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.**

#580 "The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace"



1 The Gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, Who sent His
2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who made the a -
3 It brings the Sav - ior's righ - teous - ness To robe our
4 It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and



Son to save our race, Pro - claims how Je - sus
ton - ing sac - ri - fice, And calls the souls with
souls in roy - al dress; From all our guilt it
Sa - tan and the grave; It works the faith which



lived and died That we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
guilt op-pressed To come and find e - ter - nal rest.
brings re - lease And gives the trou - bled con-science peace.
firm - ly clings To all the trea - sures which it brings.

**5 It bears to all the tidings glad
And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The weary, burdened souls it cheers
And banishes their guilty fears.**

**6 May we in faith its message learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord, our righteousness.**

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have strengthened us by the grace that is in Christ Jesus through His true body and blood that has been received. Keep us in true faith, that we will grow in fervent love for You and for one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS