



The Festival of the Reformation

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Santa Barbara, California

October 29, 2023

IN THE NAME OF CHRIST OUR SAVIOR, welcome to this service. If you are visiting, we extend you a special greeting, and invite you to come back and worship again.

The service follows a special order of worship as we rejoice in the heritage of the Lutheran Reformation of the Church, and as we reflect on the great songs of the Reformation. For your convenience the service is printed in this folder. Spoken and sung responses by the congregation are marked. If you are unfamiliar with the melodies of the hymns, they are printed in the copies of Christian Worship that are in the racks on the benches.

May our gracious Lord and Savior bless our worship!

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music

Welcome & Prologue

“Music is an endowment and a gift of God, not a gift of men. It drives away the devil and makes people cheerful; one forgets all anger, unchasteness, pride, and other vices. I place music next to theology and give it the highest praise. And we see how David and all the saints put their pious thoughts into verse, rhyme, and songs, because music reigns in times of peace and pain.” *M. Luther*

Opening Hymn

(Please follow the instructions as printed; the congregation will rise between the fourth and fifth stanza)

Opening Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
Christian Worship 234

Stanzas 1 - 2 Congregation

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously
reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Stanza 3 Women of the Congregation

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously made
you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has
stayed you.
What need or grief ever has failed of relief?
Wings of his mercy did shade you.

Stanza 4 Men of the Congregation

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and
defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do --
As with his love he befriends you.

Stanza 5 Congregation

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises
before him!
Let the Amen, sound from his people again;
Gladly forever adore him!

The Invocation

P: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, and his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* **Amen!**

Dialogue for the Reformation

P: Almighty and eternal God, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to take our place under the demands of the law and to endure your just punishment upon our sins. For our sake you accepted his sacrifice on the cross and raised him from death to glorious splendor.

C: Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

P: Almighty and eternal God, when the time had fully come, you poured out your Holy Spirit on your people as a testimony that you have called them to proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Equipped and encouraged, they carried the Word of salvation into all the world.

C: The Lord reigns. Let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

P: Almighty and eternal God, when the time had fully come, you raised up your servant Martin Luther to restore the pure and right teaching of the Scriptures to a troubled church. You renewed your people with the light of your love, and your holy church grew and prospered throughout the world.

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

P: Almighty and eternal God, when the time had fully come, you made our forefathers bold to take their stand on the truth of your

Word. You have blessed their sons and daughters, and have enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving Gospel.

C: May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us.

P: Almighty and eternal God, let this be a time when you renew us again by your Gospel, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Give us the courage of the apostles, the boldness of the reformers, and the dedication of those who have gone before us.

C: Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

Psalm for the Day

Psalm 91

- ¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty
- ² I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”
- ³ Surely he will save you;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- ⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day.
- ⁹ If you say, “The LORD is my refuge,”
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
- ¹⁰ no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
- ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
- ¹² they will lift you up in their hands.
- ¹⁴ “Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
- ¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.
- ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”

The Lessons from God's Word
(we turn our attention to the great hymns and texts
of the Reformation)

Rejoice in the Undeserved Love of God

The hymn, "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice," reflects Luther's struggle and resolution with the term the righteousness God. Instead of being something that is earned through works, it has been secured for us and all sinners through God's undeserved love in Christ Jesus. Luther based this hymn on Romans 3:21-28

“²¹ But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. ²²This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.

In fact, there is no difference, ²³because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ²⁴and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. ²⁶He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. ²⁸For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

Romans 3:21-28

Lesson and Meditation

Hymn

“Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice”
Christian Worship 377 st. 1, 4-7

1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice
 With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice
 And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
 How his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!

4. But God beheld my wretched state
 Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of his mercies great,
 He planned my soul's salvation.
A Father's heart he turned to me,
 Sought my redemption fervently;
He gave his dearest treasure.

5. He spoke to his beloved Son:
 “Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown,
 and bring mankind salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
 slay bitter death for them that they
May live with you forever.”

6. The Son obeyed his Father's will,
 Was born of virgin mother,
And, God's good pleasure to fulfill,
 He came to be my brother.
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore;
 A servant's form like mine he bore
To lead the devil captive.

7. To me he spoke, “Hold fast to me —
 I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be;

For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine,
And evermore you shall be mine;
The foe shall not divide us.

The Confession and Absolution of Sins

P: Because of God's gracious invitation, the assurance of the Scriptures, and faith worked by the Holy Spirit, we come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Lord, I believe, help my unbelief. Amen!

Song of Praise

*"Glory be to God the Father"
Christian Worship 239 st. 1-2, 4*

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit, great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory while eternal ages run!

Glory be to him who loved us,
washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to him who bought us,

made us kings with him to reign!
Glory, glory to the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory, blessing, praise eternal! —
thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r dominion! —
thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!

Rely on the Power and Love of the Lord of Heaven

The hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is our God,” was originally titled: “Our God, He is a Castle Strong.” This hymn, more than any other, epitomizes Luther’s personal experience and confession. He did not write it to express his feelings, but to interpret and apply the 46th Psalm to the church of his own time and its struggles. The hymn was a great comfort to Luther and his followers because when he was discouraged he would often invite his friends to sing it for courage and strength.

¹God is our refuge and strength, a helper who can always be found in times of trouble. ²That is why we will not fear when the earth dissolves and when the mountains tumble into the heart of the sea. ³Its waters roar and foam. The mountains quake when it rises. ⁴There is a river—its streams bring joy to the city of God, to the holy dwelling of the Most High. ⁵God is in her. She will not fall. God will help her at daybreak. ⁶Nations are in turmoil. Kingdoms fall. God raises his voice. The earth melts.

⁷*The LORD of Armies is with us. The God of Jacob is a fortress for us.*

⁸Come, look at the works of the LORD. What a wasteland he has made of the earth! ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth. He shatters the bow. He cuts up the spear. He burns the carts with fire. ¹⁰“Be still, and know

that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted on the earth.”

¹¹ The LORD of Armies is with us. The God of Jacob is a fortress for us. Psalm 46

Lesson and Meditation

Handbells

“Our Help, Our Fortress”
Arranged by Bill Ingram
Published by Ring Out! Press

The Confession of Faith

(Please read responsively as noted)

P: Confident that the Lord is our refuge, our strength, and our ever-present help in trouble, we join in confessing that confidence.

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

C: O heavenly Father, Almighty and eternal God, you are the Creator and Preserver of all things.

P: I believe that You made everything out of nothing with a word from your mouth. I believe that You made me from the dust of the earth, and that You breathed into me the breath of life. And, I am confident that You will take care of me and my every need because of Your fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

C: O Savior, Jesus Christ, Almighty and eternal God, you are the Son of the Father, the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

P: I believe that You humbled Yourself and came into this world to rescue it from sin and destruction. I believe that You were born of the virgin Mary according to the Scriptures. I believe that you were betrayed, beaten, mocked, innocently sentenced, and

crucified in my place. I believe that You rose from the dead and ascended to Your Father's throne of glory in heaven. And, I am confident that Your precious suffering and death removes all my sin and guilt, and makes me worthy of eternal life in heaven to which You will take me on the last day.

C: O Holy Spirit, Almighty and eternal God, the Author and Preserver of our faith, and the Promised Comforter sent from heaven.

P: I believe that You have come to me through the Gospel, opened my heart, and prepared my mind to believe what God has done for me through Jesus. I believe that You alone are responsible for my rescue by creating and preserving my faith. I believe that without Your precious work, I would be doomed to be eternally separated from God. But, I am confident that through Your precious work and the power of Gospel, I have been changed, and now stand certain of forgiveness and life with God, now and for all eternity.

C: O Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Spirit – You alone are one God and one Lord from all eternity. You alone are equal in power and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and praise. Lord, I believe; help my unbelief. Amen!

Remain Faithful through God's Power in the Gospel

The hymn, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," has been and perhaps still is the most widely used of all of Luther's hymns. Luther was asked by the Elector to write it because it was a turbulent and critical time. Prayers for divine help and protection were needed against all the church's enemies – spiritual and temporal. Although the wording has been changed to reflect a petition for protection against the enemies of the Word, the intent of the prayer remains the same – defend your holy Church.

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you

you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. ³² You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:31-32

Lesson and Meditation

Hymn

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

Christian Worship 203

Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would seek to overthrow your Son
and to destroy what he has done.

Lord Jesus Christ your pow’r make known,
For you are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your Christendom that we
May sing your praise eternally.

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.

Thanksgiving

Prayer for the Church at Reformation

(the congregation will rise for prayer)

P: Lord, our refuge and strength, we gather to worship and praise you for your ongoing work of reformation in your Church.

C: Lord, to you alone be glory.

P: God of grace, in unfathomable love you pitied us sinners and sent your Son as our substitute to deliver us from sin, guilt, death, darkness and despair.

C: For your grace, Lord, to you alone be glory.

P: By your grace you sent your Spirit to call us to repentance. Your powerful Gospel rescued us from rebellion and filled us with faith in you, the true and living God.

C: For saving faith, Lord, to you alone be glory.

P: By your grace we are heirs of your eternal Word and trustees of the inspired Scriptures, through which you proclaim your saving truth to every generation. By the Scriptures you overthrew the darkness of those who perverted your teachings and restored to your church the message of salvation by grace alone.

C: For the Holy Scriptures, Lord, to you alone be glory.

P: In these days, Lord Jesus, protect your flock. We are like sheep living among fierce wolves. Satan stalks us like a roaring lion. Defend us from false teachers who twist your Word to satisfy their longing.

C: For wisdom and watchfulness under attack, hear our prayer, O Lord.

P: As we celebrate the Reformation that restored your pure Gospel to your Church, we also celebrate our common confession of that Gospel in the Word and Sacraments.

C: For this unity of faith, we give you thanks, O Lord.

P: We remember the faithful confessors of this and former generations, who have passed down to us your Word of Truth.

C: For these faithful servants, we give you thanks, O Lord.

P: In thanksgiving for the many and amazing blessings restored to your church through the Reformation, we now commit ourselves to your loving care.

C: Be our mighty fortress, our trusty shield and weapon, O Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen!**

Handbells

“Beautiful Savior”
Arranged by Bill Ingram
Published by Ring Out! Press

The Te Deum

“We Praise you, O Lord”

P: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.

**C: For the Lord is the great God and a great king above all
gods. The deep places of the earth are in his hand; The
heights of the hills are also his. The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.**

P: Oh, come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

The Benediction:

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one
another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A — men. A — men. A — — men.

The Closing Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

Christian Worship 201

1. *Congregation*

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That has us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

2. *Men of the congregation*

With might of ours can naught be done;
Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.
You ask, “Who is this?” Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord. And there's no other God.
He holds the field forever.

3. *Women of the congregation*

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
One little word can fell him.

4. *All will join in the last stanza, printed on the next page.*

The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With his good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will - Hate, steal, hurt, or kill -
Though all may be gone, Our victory is won;
The Kingdom's ours forever.

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Today—*Welcome in the name of our gracious and faithful God!*
How blessed we are that God has used people like Martin Luther, and so many others to retain his pure Word. We pray he would make us faithful in our use of the Word, so it can be preserved for future generations. If you are visiting, please sign our guest book, or a visitor card, and visit us again—soon!

- Everyone is invited to stay after the service to enjoy a cup of coffee.
- There will be no Bible Class this morning to allow for extra travel time to North Hollywood. If you are in need of a ride, please speak with Pastor Proeber.
- Los Angeles Circuit Reformation Service at 4:00 pm. Information is on the next page.

Monday—Handbell practice will begin at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday—Bible Class is at 7:00 pm. After viewing the video last week, we will do the first of several lessons on Luther's early life, his monastic life, his career as a reformer, and the confession at the end of his life.

Friday—Office hours from 10:30—2:30 pm

Saturday—Clean: Pettus

- Mowing starting the week of October 29th—F. Florez

Sunday, November 5th—**In-person Worship and Live-streaming at 9:30 am.** While the observance of the Reformation is still fresh in our minds, we will focus on one particular gift of the Reformation. It was Luther's Small Catechism. It is one of the Creeds through which we confess our faith. It is also a basic

handbook for instruction in the Word of God.

- The Lord's Supper will be offered in this service. You may register to receive it today.
- Bible Class will follow the service.

Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to the Handbell Choir; to Josh Schueler and Jim Everson for controlling the audio and video portions of our live stream; to Sue Proeber for placing flowers on the altar—given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for his rich blessing.

Los Angeles Circuit Reformation Service

The LA Circuit will join together today, October 29th, to remember the blessings God brought back to his church through the work of Martin Luther. The service begins at 4:00 pm. Rev. Em. Kermit Habben will serve as the festival speaker. There will be a mixed choir and children's choir. A fellowship meal will follow the service provided by St. Paul's First.

Please speak to Pastor Proeber for car-pooling information, or check the table in the back.

Acknowledgements

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