

Festival of the Reformation

October 25, 2020

Faith Lutheran Church

Online++

Georgetown, TX 78628

512-863-7332

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

INVOCATION and CALL TO WORSHIP:

(from Psalm 46, CEV)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble.

People: And so, we won't be afraid! Let the earth tremble and the mountains tumble into the deepest sea.

Pastor: Let the ocean roar and foam, and its raging waves shake the mountains.

People: Nations rage! Kingdoms fall! But at the voice of God the earth itself melts.

Pastor: The Lord All-Powerful is with us. The God of Jacob is our fortress.

People: Come! See the fearsome things the Lord has done on earth.

Pastor: God brings wars to an end all over the world. He breaks the arrows, shatters the spears, and burns the shields.

People: Our God says, "Calm down and learn that I am God! All nations on earth will honor Me."

Pastor: The Lord All-Powerful is with us.

People: The God of Jacob is our fortress.

OPENING HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress" (Lutheran Service Book, #656)

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath 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.
With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.
Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpow'r 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.
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 take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

(a modified confession of Luther)

Pastor: "Turn to Me and be saved," says the Lord. "For I am God and there is no other."

People: If we confess our sins, God Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Today, we ponder once again the mercy and grace of God.

(silent self-examination and reflection)

Pastor: O my dear Lord Jesus Christ,

People: You know my poor soul and my great failing, which I confess to You today with an open heart. I find that I do not have the kind of will and resolution I certainly ought to have and that I am truly a sinful human being. And You know that I desire to have such will and resolution, but my enemy fights to lead me bound and captive. Redeem me, a poor sinner, according to Your divine will, from every evil and temptation. Strengthen and increase me in the true Christian faith; grant me grace to love my neighbor with all my heart. Grant me patience in persecution and in every adversity.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, it is my privilege to announce to you today that all your sins are forgiven for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Luther's Morning Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings in life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Revelation 14:6-8*

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."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 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 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, 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL READING: *John 8:31-36*

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” They answered Him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith using Dr. Martin Luther’s explanation of The Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

Pastor: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

People: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Children's Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons.

HYMN: "Thy Strong Word" (LSB, #578 sts. 1-3, 6)

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!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,

Dark as night and deep as death,

Broke the light of Thy salvation,

Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

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SERMON: “Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum”

“The word of the Lord remains forever.”
(1 Peter 1:25a)

OFFERTORY:

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today at www.flcms.org/index.php/give.

BELL ANTHEM: “Our Foundation, Help and Fortress” *arranged by Cathy Moglebust*

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

BENEDICTION: 2 Corinthians 13:14

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

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Thy Word Is a Lamp" (LSB, #973)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,

Still You're there right beside me.

And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.

Please be near me to the end. **Refrain**

I will not forget Your love for me, and yet

My heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;

And I will love You to the end. **Refrain**

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DISMISSAL:

Please be seated
and kindly wait for an usher to dismiss your row.

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Proclaimer – Rev. Walt Pohland

Liturgist – Rev. Bill Crowe

Musicians:

Adam Perez and Austin Angerman

and

Faith Lutheran Bell Choir

Lay Readers:

Online Reader – Ken Alford

9:30 Reader – Michael Weil

11:00 Reader – Rick Schmidt

Children's Chapel:

DCE Jonathan Loesch, DCE Austin Angerman