

October 26, 2025 8:00/9:30/10:45am

Reformation Sunday



REFORMATION
SUNDAY

AS WE GATHER

In our fallen humanity, we resist the reality that God is our mighty fortress, “our refuge and strength” (Psalm 46:1). We allow our fears to cause us to freeze when nations rage, mountains are moved, and waters roar and foam. We become afraid when life is not playing out the way we had planned. Our fears do not change the fact that “the LORD of hosts is with us.” Our God baptizes us in the river of life and promises us a place where “there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.” This paradise and God’s ever presence are ours because of Jesus.

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Please stand and face the cross for the Processional Hymn

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

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.

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“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

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.

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.

LSB 656

BAPTISM (10:45)

Isaac Otto Hansen is the son of Bryce and Miranda Hansen
Isaac's sponsors are Krista Overby and Laura Schminski

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11*

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 35:10*

Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us, “The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE**“By Grace I’m Saved”****LSB 566, vv. 1-2**

School Choir sings verse 1 at 8:00/10:45. Congregation sings both verses at 9:30.

By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless;

My soul, believe and doubt it not.

Why stagger at this word of promise?

Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?

No! Then this word must true remain:

By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;

Our works and conduct have no worth.

God in His love sent our Redeemer,

Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;

His death did for our sins atone,

And we are saved by grace alone.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our refuge and strength, our very present help in times of trouble, still our restless souls and gladden our hearts with the joy that is ours in Your Son, Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM (8:00/10:45)**“Thy Word”****arr. Jack Schrader****FIRST READING****Revelation 14:6–7**

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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 46

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

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

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 her; she shall not be moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;

He utters His voice, the earth melts.

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

Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

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

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

EPISTLE

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

“God’s Word is Our Great Heritage”

LSB 582

God’s Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.

Text: Public domain

*The Gospel is read from the middle of the congregation to remind us that
God is in our midst.*

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

GOSPEL RESPONSE**“By Grace I’m Saved”****LSB 566, v. 4**

By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
 As long as God is true, it stands.
 What saints have penned by inspiration,
 What in His Word our God commands,
 Our faith in what our God has done
 Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

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CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**HYMN OF THE DAY****“Thy Strong Word”****LSB 578, vv. 1-2, 5-6**

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!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias,
 Alleluias 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!

△ 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**“What Does This Mean?”****Pastor Barry**

CREEDAL HYMN

“We All Believe in One True God”

LSB 953

We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds,
All creation He upholds.

We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessèd, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.

Text: Public domain

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, You are our refuge and strength. Defend Your Church from the attacks and accusations of the devil. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and His Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, since the fall into sin, all creation groans for restoration. Earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, floods, and other disasters cause great fear. But You are the God of all creation. Calm our hearts and be in our midst when the earth gives way. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, in this fallen world, nations rage and kingdoms totter. War, threat of war, violence, and division plague the earth. But You are the Lord of hosts, and You are with us. Defend us from conflict and be our King of peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, send healing to all who are sick, injured, and recovering... If it be Your will, restore their health with the overflowing abundance that comes only from Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, we exalt You among the nations for the blessings You have poured out upon us. We rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn... Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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 *Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11; Numbers 6:24–26*

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

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

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

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

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Fight the Good Fight”

LSB 664, vv. 1-2



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your



strength, and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way be -



it shall be Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
fore us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

Text and tune: Public domain

SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH ST. JOHN'S TODAY! If this is your first time at St. John's, we encourage you to fill out a **CONNECTCard** located on the **Welcome Desk**. We want an opportunity to get to know you.

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes: 8:00 Hannah Davenport/10:45 Josie Watry

Elders: 8:00 Paul DeRocher /9:30 Pete Siedelman/10:45 Michael Johnshoy

Usher Team: 8:00 Mark Asmus/9:30/10:45 Andrew Tesch

Welcome Team: 8:00 Gary Herber, Gayle Degler/

9:30 Watry Family, Matzke Family/10:45 Messer Family, Ben Peterson

Tech Crew: 8:00 Hunter Krueger/9:30 Bennett McGlothlin/10:45 Julie Bruce

Coffee Hour: 9:30 Kuester Family

UPCOMING WEEK	
Monday, October 27	Men's Bible Study 6:30am
	Monday Night Meal 5:15pm
	AA 7:00pm
Wednesday, October 29	Moms in the Word 9:30am
	Messengers of Praise Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm
Thursday, October 30	Women's LifeLight Bible Study 9:30am
	Trail Life Troop Meeting 6:30pm
Friday, October 31	AA 6:30pm
Sunday, November 2	All Saints' Sunday
	Chancel Steps Signing 9:00am – 12:00pm
	Worship 8:00/9:30/10:45am
	Education Hour 9:30am

Celebrating Birthdays

10/26

Carol Jones
Annabelle Danner

10/27

Larry Brandmire
Timothy Schaekel

10/28

Steve Baker

10/29

Sylver Syrette
Madalyn Tesch

Leslie Dartt

Wells Waldner

10/30

Steven Beulke
Joanne Morschen
John Barney

11/1

Brecquel Brandmire

Cathie DeMaris

Daniel Siegle

Mila Wille

Katie Barry

Wyatt Fischer

Alex Bahl

Celebrating Anniversaries

10/26 Jerry and Mary Griffin

10/26 Kyle and Catherine Raether

10/29 Luke and Emily Puza

10/30 James and Laura Holasek

10/30 Vance and Jill Huwe

10/31 Robert and Kathy Roepke

Expectant Moms

Nicole Stockey

Kourtney Vipond

Jessica Lewis

Nicole Thuente

Katelyn Olson

Amy Peterson

Prayers for Healing and Strength

Julie Carver

Angel Benes

Westlee Koepsell

Bernie Gnan

Marilyn Lenzen

John Gates

Jolene Berg

Angeline Rannow

Joann Mueller

Gary Anderson

Jack Boman

Ongoing Prayers

Carol Affeldt

John Barney

Angel Benes

Merlin Bentz

Jimann Campbell

Julie Carver

Marguerite Craighead

Sunnie Deis

Bob DeMaris

Anita Doss

Sid & Merna Fjelstad

Dennis Gaarder

Bernie Gnan

Hilde Grev

Ruth Harms

Eugene Henke

Carol Jones

Len Kallsen

Gretchen Laubach

Melinda Meuwissen

Gina Niesche

Steve Pond

Austin Rannow

Val Schlefsky

Cliff Waller

Ruth Ziegler

In Sympathy

Ashley Lenz and family upon the passing of Ashley's mother, Lisa Neitzel.

Deanne Hofer and family upon the passing of Deanne's mother, Dorris Rossow.

Cody Gnade and family upon the passing of Cody's mother, Christine Gnade.

Turn Your Clocks Back Next Weekend!

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 2. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed next Saturday night.

Sign the Steps

Next Sunday, November 2nd, all are invited to the sanctuary between services to sign the chancel steps and view construction progress.