

THE BENEDICTION: followed by the "Amen" from TLH 458:9

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

- ☞ The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- ☞ **♫ Amen, that is, So shall it be. Confirm our faith and hope in Thee That we may doubt not, but believe What here we ask we shall receive. Thus in Thy name and at Thy word We say: Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord!**

CLOSING HYMN: TLH #370 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

What is a Lutheran? Many Christians today, especially in our area, might not know what a Lutheran is. "Is that a cult?" "What's the difference between that and Christian?" While we proudly bear the name "Lutheran," that does not mean we worship Martin Luther. In 1519, "Lutheran" was a derogatory slur used against Martin Luther by the German Scholastic theologian Dr. Johann Eck during their debate in Leipzig, Germany. The Catholics followed the practice of naming a heretical group after its leader, so Eck and all Catholics began using "Lutheran" as an offensive word to describe anyone who followed the teachings of Martin Luther.

What were those teachings? Simply put, they're God's teachings—that we are saved by God's free **Grace Alone**; justified through **Faith Alone** apart from our works; and the basis for our hope of salvation is **Scripture Alone**. These ought to be truths eagerly proclaimed by anyone who would call themselves Christian; sadly that is not the case. Nevertheless, this is what we believe and hold fast to, not because it was taught by Luther, but because it was taught by Christ Himself.

So what is a Lutheran? A Lutheran is a Christian. A Lutheran believes strongly that all Christian teachings should come from the Bible, because it is the very Word of God. A Lutheran believes that God's Word ought to be taken very seriously, as everything God says is correct and true. A Lutheran recognizes what God teaches us in His Word: that we are all sinners deserving damnation in hell, but that we are forgiven solely because Christ died to take away our sins. A Lutheran believes that this free gift of salvation is acquired by the individual through faith in Jesus as Savior—and that this faith only comes through the work of the Holy Spirit, as God tells us! In short, a Lutheran is a follower of Christ who depends entirely upon His grace and redeeming work, totally apart from any works, feelings, or decisions that we could attempt to contribute! **"By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast!"** (Ephesians 2:8-9)

October 31, 2021

Reformation Day

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PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalm 17:7-15

⁷ Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand. ⁸ Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, ⁹ from the wicked who do me violence, my deadly enemies who surround me. ¹⁰ They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly. ¹¹ They have now surrounded our steps; they set their eyes to cast us to the ground. ¹² He is like a lion eager to tear, as a young lion lurking in ambush. ¹³ Arise, O LORD! Confront him, subdue him! Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, ¹⁴ from men by your hand, O LORD, from men of the world whose portion is in this life. You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants. ¹⁵ As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

P Pastor

C Congregation

CLOSING HYMN: TLH #262 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALMS

Psalm 119

P Oh LORD, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

C You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.

P I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

C I understand more than the ancients, because I keep your precepts.

P How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

C Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

P Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

HYMN: TLH #261:1 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word"

C *Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.*

OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

C *♩ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.*

HYMN: TLH #377:1-6

"Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS -

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING HYMN: TLH #377:10

"Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

C *♩ All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit The God that saved us by His grace, All glory to His merit! O Triune God in heaven above, Who hast revealed Thy saving love, Thy blessed name be hallowed.*

Responsive Reformation Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

P For sending your Son to rescue the human race from sin, We thank and praise You, O Lord.

C For sending your Spirit to lead us to repentance and faith in Jesus as our Savior, We thank and praise You, O Lord.

P For teaching us that our righteous acts are filthy rags, We thank and praise You also, O Lord, for the gift of Jesus' righteousness.

C For guiding women and men like Martin Luther to understand the scriptural truth, "The just shall live by faith," We thank and praise You, O Lord.

P For blessing the spread of the gospel through the Reformation during these last 504 years, We thank and praise You, O Lord.

C For loyalty to hold to Your truth and remain Your true disciples, We ask for the power of Your Spirit, O Lord.

P For boldness to confess Your truth in a fallen world, We ask for the power of Your Spirit, O Lord.

C For zeal to spread the message of salvation in Christ alone, We ask for the power of Your Spirit, O Lord.

P And with grateful hearts we raise our voices to proclaim,

C "The just shall live by faith." Amen.

P And we unite in the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father..."

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Justification by Faith

We boldly confess what we believe using the following words from the Formula of Concord — on Justification by Faith.

“We unanimously believe, teach, and confess the following about the righteousness of faith before God:

A poor sinful person is justified before God, that is, absolved and declared free and exempt from all his sins and from the sentence of well-deserved condemnation, and is adopted into sonship and inheritance of eternal life, without any merit or worth of his own. This happens without any preceding, present, or subsequent works, out of pure grace, because of the sole merit, complete obedience, bitter suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Christ alone. His obedience is credited to us for righteousness. These treasures are brought to us by the Holy Spirit in the promise of the holy Gospel.

Faith alone is the only means through which we lay hold on, accept, apply, and take them for ourselves. This faith is God’s gift, by which we truly learn to know Christ, our Redeemer, in the Word of the Gospel and trust in Him. We trust that for the sake of His obedience alone we have the forgiveness of sins by grace, are regarded as godly and righteous by God the Father, and are eternally saved.”

Hymn: TLH #528:1-3, 5-6

“If God Himself Be For Me”

SERMON – Galatians 2:15-20 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. ¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God.

The Lutheran Reformation of the Word “Justification”

- I. The Law can only lead to pride or despair
- II. Only the Gospel can lead to faith and salvation

RESPONSIVE PSALMS

Psalm 2

- P** Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?
- C** **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,**
- P** Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
- C** **“Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us.”**
- P** He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision.
- C** **Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure:**
- P** **“Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.”**

HYMN: TLH #261:2

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word”

- C** *Lord Jesus Christ, Thy power make known,
For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
Defend Thy Christendom that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee.*

RESPONSIVE PSALMS

Psalm 31

- P** In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness.
- C** **Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge a fortress of defense to save me.**
- P** For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name’s sake, lead me and guide me.
- C** **Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength.**
- P** Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

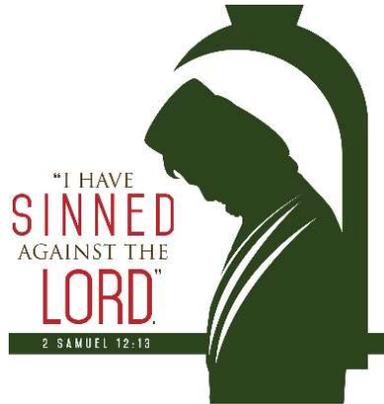


HYMN: TLH #261:3

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word”

- C** *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.*

P God our Father *has* preserved His Word for us. It is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. Our Lord Jesus *has* made His power known. He is sitting at the right hand of the Father and will come to judge the world. God the Holy Spirit *has* extended God's grace to us through Word and Sacrament. But we have not kept the Word of our Lord. I now ask you, therefore, before God who searches the heart: Do you confess the sins you have committed in thought, word, and deed; do you repent of them, believe on the Lord Jesus for forgiveness, and sincerely intend, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, to lead a godly life from now on?



G I do so confess, believe, and intend with the help of God.

P Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of God's Word, announce the grace of God unto you. In the stead of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Let us praise our gracious God!

HYMN: TLH #261:4 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word"

G *Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Jeremiah 18:1-11 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. ⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶ "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸ and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it. ⁹ And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰ and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it. ¹¹ Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the LORD, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.'

Psalmody: WS p. 40

"Lord, You Have Been Favorable"

GOSPEL READING – Mark 13:5-11 And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷ And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains. ⁹ "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹ And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.