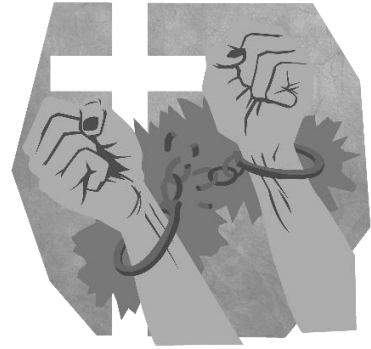


# REFORMATION DAY

Set Free

Do Not Fear: The Lord of Hosts Is with Us

October 25, 2020



## AS WE GATHER

Martin Luther's great hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is based on Psalm 46. When the psalm was first written, it gave courage to God's Old Testament people. Centuries later, when Luther wrote the hymn, the world was filled with plagues and death, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. Further, neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the government accepted the teachings of the reformers. Now, in our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists, political polarization, and ecclesiastical division. Because of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, we need not fear. Our gracious God is a very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the powers of the created world around us and the forces of evil from every source. From His throne flow streams of mercy to give us confident joy. We know that in the end "the kingdom ours remaineth."

### ✘ PREPARATION ✘

#### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

Almighty and ever gracious God, since all our salvation depends upon your holy Word: therefore, grant that our hearts may be set free from worldly things, so that we may with all diligence and faith hear your Word, rightly understand your gracious will, and in all sincerity live according to the same. O Still Speaking God, throughout history and the wide world you have gathered people around your Word to instruct and inspire. We give thanks for all who have received your vision and shaped diverse and faithful communities to follow in your Way. Continue to open that vision to us, that we may become transformed by the renewing of your Word in our hearts. Enable us to grow in love and understanding for each other. Create in us, O God, clean hearts and minds; Let us join with you in your suffering and your triumph. We desire to be your children and we claim these blessings in your name. **Amen.**

**WELCOME:**

*Welcome, worshippers of the Living God!* We share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one Name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope. As you lift up God on this Reformation Sunday with your love and longing, and with your praise and prayers, may God bless you with His Word and Holy Communion so you experience the peace and promise of His presence and know the purpose and power of His plan for you! **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.** *Therefore, we will lay down our weapons and worship our God.* Welcome!

**SOLO**

**Minister Terry Dale**

**INVOCATION**

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

People: **Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 46:1a, 2a; Romans 3:23–24a; John 8:31b–32*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength;

People: **therefore we will not fear.**

Pastor: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

People: **and are justified by His grace as a gift.**

Pastor: If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples,

People: **and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Incorporating Psalm 46:4, 7, 11*

Pastor: Lord of hosts,

People: **hear our confession of sins and grant us Your mercy and forgiveness. We have not trusted in Your promised protection and strength but have looked elsewhere for help and refuge. You alone have provided the remedy for that which truly**

**causes our separation, troubles, and death. For the sake of Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from Your present help. We ask it in the name of Jesus.**

Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. Because that river of grace and power has flowed over us in our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, in spite of our fear, the LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

By grace God has created each of us and everything that exists, and in the person of His Son entered our history and paid for our every sin and sin itself. In Christ's resurrection, God's promises have been made sure. 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.

**People: Amen. The LORD of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!**

**✕ WORD ✕**

## **KYRIE**

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**People: Lord of hosts, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those living in fear because of sudden disaster, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord of creation, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those living in fear because of the evil intentions of people in power, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord of lords, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those living in fear because of evil forces within the Church and oppression beyond it, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Christ, our Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
People: **Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, always present in trouble, silence our fears when Your good creation seems out of control and evil appears to run rampant.

People: **Like the dawning of a new day, dispel the darkness of our hearts and renew confident faith in Your constant presence and gracious protection;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**    *Revelation 14:6–7* (An angel announces the time for judgment.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SOLO**

**Minister Terry Dale**

**GRADUAL**    *Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a*

Pastor: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God!  
Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,

consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,  
that you may tell the next generation  
**People:** **that this is God, our God forever and ever.**

**EPISTLE**     *Romans 3:19–28*     (We need not fear the Law's accusation, for we are justified by grace.)

Pastor:     This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**     **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**     *Luke 12:32*

Pastor:             Alleluia. Fear not, little flock,

**People:**     **for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**  
**Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *John 8:31–36*             (We are freed from slavery to sin; we are free indeed.)

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

**People:**     **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor:     This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**     **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SOLO**     **Minister Terry Dale**

**SERMON**

**SOLO**     **Minister Terry Dale**  
**(We Will Bring Our Tithes and Offering To The Lord)**

## CATECHISM

### *Incorporating Psalm 46 and the Apostles' Creed*

Pastor: Our faith is in God the Father, the almighty Creator of all that exists.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way.

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, who has made me and all creatures. He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.**

Pastor: Our faith is in God the Son, whose sacrifice on the cross opens to us eternal life in God's eternal presence. 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;

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

Pastor: Our faith is in God the Holy Spirit, whose gift of faith gives us eternal peace with God. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, who in the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Incorporating Psalm 46*

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church here and around the world and for all people in their varied circumstances.

O God, our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, strengthen the Church here and wherever it gathers around Your Word and celebrates the blessed Sacraments. Grant confident faith to clergy and laity, pastors in congregations and missionaries in distant lands, elders in the faith and newly baptized alike. Help us to put all our trust in Your protection and power. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Strong Creator, wherever people call out to You as the earth gives way, mountains move into the heart of the sea, and mountains tremble, hear their cries and keep them safe. Awaken courage and wisdom in those who search and rescue, those who provide physical and spiritual counsel, and those who offer long-term support of body and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, use the earthly powers that be to move the nations and their leaders to seek ways toward peace with their neighbors and stability within their borders. You, who make wars cease to the end of the earth, provide courage and compassion to all who work for peace and protection as they are deployed abroad and all who maintain concord and order within our communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious God, stream joy and gladness to those who wait for the dawning of a new day, those dealing with long-term ills, unemployment, discrimination, unjust imprisonment, strife in their families, and the loss of loved ones, [*especially* . . .]. Assure them that You are with them, even now a very present help in trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of hosts, worthy to be exalted among the nations, into Your almighty hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray. Hear our prayer for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
People: **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The blessing of God almighty—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you now and forever.  
People: **Amen.**

**SOLO**

**Minister Terry Dale**

### **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God!**

**(No Hand Shaking or Elbow Bumping. Simply Greet One Another With  
“God Bless You and The Peace Of The Lord Be With You”)**



**Grace alone,  
Faith alone,  
Scripture alone**

**Reformation**  
Ephesians 2:8-9

