



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

402 N. First Street, Lindsborg, Kansas 67456

Office: 785-227-3977

www.melclindsborg.org

mlchurch@mlc.kscoxmail.com

October 25, 2020

Reformation Sunday

PRELUDE

Variations on "A Mighty Fortress"

Cor Kee

GATHERING

Gather us together this Reformation Sunday, O God,

that we may celebrate the witness

of our forefathers and foremothers

and the courage that gave birth to the Reformation.

Teach us how to honor the saints of God in ages past

as well as in our present days.

May the conviction of your grace written on their hearts

be one that forms our own faith.

Inspire us in the continuing reformation of the church

and be present to us your in word and sacrament.

In Christ's name we pray. **Amen**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

Canticle of Praise

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



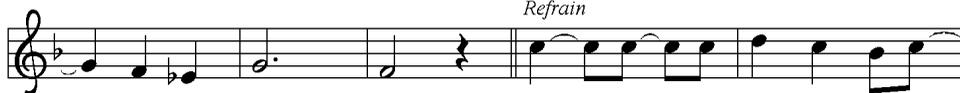
peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



for your glo - ry. *Refrain* Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's



peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, **we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm: Psalm 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;

who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

Hymn of the Day

He Is Lord



- 1 He is Lord, he is Lord, he is ris-en from the dead and he is Lord;
- 2 To re-main in con-trol Christ did not con-sid-er some-thing to be held.
- 3 For our sins Je-sus died, tak-ing on our blame and shame up-on a cross.
- 4 He is Lord, he is Lord, he is ris-en from the dead and he is Lord;



ev - 'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con-fess that Je - sus Christ is Lord.
But he took the form of a hu - man child, more ser - vant than a lord.
Then God lift - ed Christ to the high - est place, that we could name our Lord!
ev - 'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con-fess that Je - sus Christ is Lord.

Text: traditional, sts. 1 and 4; Rusty Edwards, sts. 2-3; based on Philippians 2:6-11

Music: HE IS LORD, traditional

Sts. 2-3 text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Special music by Tyler Atkinson. He will play on the pedal steel guitar "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" by Martin Luther and arranged by Bill Keith.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Mothering God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924
Text © John B. Geyer.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000460

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Fughetta on "A Mighty Fortress"

Johann Pachelbel

Messiah Lutheran Church
9/30/2020

	Actual Sep 20	Actual Jan – Sep 20	Budget Jan – Sep 20
Revenue	\$11,759.25	\$123,389.55	\$111,195.00
Expenses	<u>11,407.81</u>	<u>117,556.03</u>	<u>123,672.72</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$351.44</u>	<u>\$5,833.52</u>	<u>-\$12,477.72</u>
Reserve Balance	<u>\$76,131.62</u>		

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Har Shogren, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, we hold in prayer family and friends of Louise Benson

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Chip Brock	Bill and Caroline Brock's son	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson	Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter		

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson	T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Daniel & Miranda Norland Randy/Gretchen's son & wife

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Please pray for all affected by Covid-19: Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. Also, we pray for all who are being negatively affected by the virus and it's social disruption.

Birthdays This Week:

Scott Taylor	10/27	Walli Ellis	10/29
--------------	-------	-------------	-------

WIDER CHURCH NEWS: BY JEANNE AHLERS

This is a thought-provoking time of a very unusual year. Reformation Sunday, when we remember the founding of our denomination, will be closely followed by Election Day. Do these two have anything in common?

It wasn't Martin Luther's intention to form a new denomination. He only wanted to expose and correct erroneous ways into which the church had drifted over the years. That these efforts led to conflict and disorder was a difficult outcome, but from it came new understanding. In our own day, denominations are reaching out to one another in recognition that there is a greater truth than individual doctrines.

Election Day always brings its own kind of conflict and disorder. It's a time when we have to take stock of where we stand in regard to our own ideals and those of the Founding Fathers. As Lutherans, we should approach Election 2020 as faith-informed voters. Aware of our own needs and those of our neighbors -- equally beloved children of God -- "we should care about government because it is a gift from God intended for the safety and flourishing of human life." How do we do that?

We should approach the election as faith-informed voters who will take action and proclaim that fear will not be the determining factor in our choices. We should prayerfully consider the challenges and the options Election 2020 offers. And then we should vote our consciences. Election Day has the potential to be a Reformation Day of sorts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reformation Sunday Drive by lunch on October 25, 11am to 1pm at Messiah Lutheran Church. On this most Lutheran of Days you are invited to our second drive by lunch. You will be greeted by Martin Luther welcoming you to a stupendous meal. The menu is grilled bratwurst, German roasted potatoes, slaw salad and ice cold Root Beer Floats. Come one-come all. Free will offering. Meal delivery available. Call 785-227-3977 to reserve your meal.

Messiah Church Women will meet Wednesday October 25, 7:00 PM, in the church Fellowship Hall. Masks will be worn, and we will be safe-distancing. Flo Peterson will have the lesson, and Carolyn Brock will be hostess. You do not need to be a current Gather magazine subscriber to participate in the Bible Study. All women are encouraged to attend!

Bill and Carolyn Brock would like to thank everyone for the prayers, phone calls, and concern for their son Chip, after his August 17th accident. The thoughts and prayers of so many were vital to his recovery. They share the good news that he is finally home in Alaska as recuperating continues.

Please **pray for Bethany College, the students, faculty, administrators, and staff**, that all remain healthy and mindful of best health practices, that learning be deep and strong, and that all might live into their vocation.

Please pray for **USD 400 and all teachers, students, administrators, and staff**, that they might remain healthy and mindful of best health practices, that learning be deep and strong, and the all might benefit from the community of learning.

KICK (Kids in Christ's Kingdom) will be on hold for the fall until we see how the virus remains contained or spreads. If you have innovative ideas about how our congregation might engage our youth or any other population in the community or congregation, please talk with Rachel Ann Atkinson or leave a message at the office. Ideas about how we are to be Church in this time are welcome, even as we see people being Church to one another through small actions and thoughtful gestures.

Dala Pantry – Remember that Messiah Lutheran members are asked to provide the following items for the Dala Pantry donations – canned chicken, tuna, pickles, vienna sausages, peanut butter & jelly; Bethany is asked to bring single serving macaroni and cheese, ravioli, applesauce, fruit cups and canned tuna.

The Dala Pantry has gained a few new volunteers but is still looking for people to be of assistance from time to time. Please let Logan know if you are interested! daweslm@bethanylb.edu.

OCTOBER 25, 2020 REFORMATION SUNDAY



*Disciples have a trusted
relationship with Jesus.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 8:31-36	The Son makes you free
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	The new covenant
Tuesday	Romans 3:19-28	True righteousness
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Moses is buried in Moab
Thursday	Psalms 90:1-17	God is eternal
Friday	Galatians 2:15-21	Justified through faith
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our refuge
Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The beatitudes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” **John 8:31-32 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, keep your faithful people steadfast in your word so that we may receive your freedom and truth through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God of glory and might, with this gift of food we remember the gift of faith that strengthens us and renews us daily through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord bless you with a relationship to God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)

HYMN OF THE WEEK

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about what it takes to have a strong, ongoing relationship with a friend.
- What gets in the way of a friendship?
- Talk or think about what it takes to have a strong, ongoing relationship with Jesus.

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 8:31-36.

It is the power of the word that Jesus brings that gives us freedom from sin. That word is first and foremost Jesus, the Word that became flesh (John 1:14). Christian disciples “continue” or remain in the freeing and saving word of God. The Gospel of John emphasizes that the follower of Jesus has an ongoing relationship to him by continuing “in my word” (8:31). To know the truth that sets one free is more than to know information; it is to live in a relationship to Jesus through faith. The challenge at the time of the Reformation—and today as well—is for the church to promote a living relationship with God, a relationship that depends on faith in Jesus, the Son of God. We experience this relationship through worship, prayer, reading the Bible, and serving and loving one’s neighbor for the sake of Christ. How do you continue to live each day as a disciple of Jesus?

Pray: **Almighty God, help me to trust in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord and have life in his name. Amen.**

SERVICE

Martin Luther wrote, “God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.” An important theme of the Reformation is that all Christians are called to serve others

through their baptisms. Think about friends and neighbors in your community who may need help or support in some way. What good works can you do to serve them in Jesus' name?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Martin Luther wrote the words for *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* and composed the melody. This well-known hymn is based on Psalm 46. After reading this psalm once, make a list of words from it that help you understand God as a mighty fortress. Read Psalm 46 again and pause for a moment when you read a word from your list. After finishing, say, "Amen."

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org