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The Rev. Thomas R. Marcis Jr. – Senior Pastor
Ben Ramthun – Vicar
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Liturgy: Vicar Ramthun
Sermon: Pastor Marcis
Organist: Evelyn Orth

REFORMATION DAY

Set Free

October 25, 2020 – 10:45 AM



AS WE GATHER

To the consternation of His opponents, Jesus announced that those who abide in His Word know the truth, which sets them free. And the truth, Paul points out in the Epistle, is that God has declared us justified, not guilty under His Law, because of His gracious gift of faith in Christ. That gift frees us from fearing God's righteous wrath; we are confident that the Lord of hosts is with us. Sure of His presence and protection, we need not fear the forces of nature, the conflicts of people and nations, and the wiles of the devil. Rather, in all that we think, say, and do, we are free to respond to the angelic invitation we hear today: "fear God and give Him glory . . . and worship Him who made heaven and earth" (Revelation 14:7).

✘ PREPARATION ✘

HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation" LSB 644

- 1 **The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.**

- 2 **Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.**

- 3 **Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.**

- 4 **Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.**

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face. Public domain

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 ☩

HYMN

"Have No Fear, Little Flock" *LSB 735*

1 Have no fear, little flock;
Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen
To give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock!

2 Have good cheer, little flock;
Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you
In His love forever;
Have good cheer, little flock!

3 Praise the Lord high above;
Praise the Lord high above,
For He stoops down to heal you,
Uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!

4 Thankful hearts raise to God;
Thankful hearts raise to God,
For He stays close beside you,
In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!

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KYRIE

Vicar: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord of hosts, have mercy.

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

People: Lord of creation, have mercy.

Vicar: 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.

Vicar: 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.

Vicar: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Vicar: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING

Revelation 14:6–7

(An angel announces the time for judgment.)

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."

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BELLS OF ZION

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

GRADUAL

Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a

Vicar: 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.)

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.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"By Grace I'm Saved" Sts. 1–2 *LSB* 566

**1 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.**

**2 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

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

(We are freed from slavery to sin; we are free indeed.)

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."

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" *LSB* 656

**1 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.**

2 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.

3 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.

4 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

SERMON

"Faith Alone!"
Romans 3:27-28

CATECHISM

Incorporating Psalm 46 and the Apostles' Creed

- Vicar: 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.**
- Vicar: 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.**
- Vicar: 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

Vicar: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” *LSB 805*

**Δ 1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.** Text: Public domain

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Vicar: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: **And also with you.**

Vicar: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Vicar: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalms 136*

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Vicar: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Vicar: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure” *LSB 743*

- 1** Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me, Ah, how long in anguish
Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask beside Thee.
- 2** In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here. Though the earth be shaking,
Ev’ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, though sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.
- 3** Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
Nor thy threats alarm me While I sing of peace.
God’s great pow’r Guards ev’ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore Him, Silent bow before Him.
- 4** Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure,
Jesus is my choice. Hence, all empty glory!
Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross,
Shall not from my Savior move me Since He deigns to love me.
- 5** Evil world, I leave thee; Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain. Sin that once did blind me,
Get thee far behind me, Come not forth again.
Past thy hour, O pride and pow’r;
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever, Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in. Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather, Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear,
Thou art still my purest pleasure, Jesus, priceless treasure! Text: Public domain

“O Lord, We Praise Thee” LSB 617

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:
O Lord, have mercy!

2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:
O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!
O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:
O Lord, have mercy! Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004275

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

LSB 164 “Thank the Lord”

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Vicar: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Vicar: The blessing of God almighty—the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Vicar: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” *LSB 922*

1 Go, My children, with My blessing,
Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are My own.
In My love’s baptismal river
I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—
You are My own.

2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son’s story;
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.

3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit’s power filled you;
Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
And give you peace.

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