

Reformation Sunday

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...” (Heb. 12:28)

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Decatur, Illinois
November 1, 2020

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Let us begin in the name of our Triune God, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hidden. In the name of the Father, the Son ☩, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Hear my prayer, O Lord; let my cry come to you! Do not hide your face from me in the day of my distress! Incline your ear to me; answer me speedily in the day when I call![Psalm 102:1-2]

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. [Psalm 51:1-4]

CONG I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord’s name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has

failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.

[Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.]

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

CONG Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. [Psalm 51:10-12]

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

Pastor: Do you believe that the word of Christ’s forgiveness I speak to you is from the Lord himself?

CONG Yes, I do.

Pastor: Receive the forgiveness Christ won for you by his Passion and death. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG Amen.

Pastor: Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

[Psalm 30:4-5,12b]

Opening Hymn:

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” #657 ss. 1-4

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
And wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
Has sworn to work us woe.
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
2. No strength of ours can match his might.
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is He,
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.
3. Though hordes of devils fill the land
All threat'ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot over-pow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage,
In battle we'll engage.
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

4. God's Word forever shall abide,
No thanks to foes, who fear it;
For God Himself fights by our side
With weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
Though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

Kyrie: “Kyrie! God, Father” #942

Kyrie! God, Father in heaven above,
You abound in gracious love,
Of all things the maker and preserver.
Eleison, eleison!
Kyrie! O Christ, our king,
Salvation for all You came to bring.
O Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
Our mediator at the heavenly throne,
Hear our cry and grant our supplication.
Eleison, eleison!
Kyrie! O God the Holy Ghost,
Guard our faith, the gift we need the most,
And bless our life's last hour
That we leave this sinful world with gladness.
Eleison, eleison!

The Collect of the Day

Pastor: O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people, keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon

Christ's Church Militant Your saving peace;
through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

CONG Amen.

Choir: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word"

Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son
And bring to nought all he has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
For you are Loud of lords alone;
Defend your holy Church that we
May sing your praise eternally.

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.

The First Reading: REVELATION 14:6-7

Pastor: 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."

The Gradual

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 that this is God,
our God forever and ever. (Ps 48:1 a, 12-14a)

The Epistle Reading: ROMANS 3:19-28

Pastor: 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.

The Verse

Hallelujah! Fear not, little flock, for it is your
Father's good pleasure to give you the
kingdom. Hallelujah! (Luke 12:32)

The Holy Gospel: JOHN 8:31-36

Pastor: So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed 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 practices 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."

Creedal Hymn: "We All Believe in One True God" #954

1. We all believe in one true God, Who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love Has the right of children given.
He in soul and body feeds us; All we need His hand provides us;
Through all snares and perils leads us, Watching that no harm betide us.
He cares for us day and night, All things are governed by His might.

2. We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord,
possessing
An equal Godhead, throne, and might, Source of ev'ry grace and blessing.
Born of Mary, virgin mother, By the power of the Spirit,
Word made flesh, our elder Brother, That the lost might life inherit;
Was crucified for all our sin And raised by God to life again.

3. We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who, in highest heaven dwelling
With God the Father and the Son, Comforts us beyond all telling;
Who the Church, His own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit.
Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus' merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be In bliss with God eternally.

The Sermon: "The Truth Will Set You Free!" JOHN 8:31-36

The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we see and feel how your church is doing in this world. We see its status and how it is annoyed in so many ways by the world and the devil. So we pray to you for the sake of your only begotten Son. First, comfort and strengthen our hearts by your Holy Spirit, so that we may not be overwhelmed by so many dangers. Also we pray that you will not only halt the purposes and plans of the enemies but will truly and marvelously help prove to the whole world that you care for the church. Rule, protect, and deliver it, ever living and reigning eternal God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

CONG Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: "Dear Friends of Christ. Lift up your hearts to God to pray with me the Lord's Prayer, as Christ our Lord has taught us and has given comfortable promise that it shall be heard."
 "That God, our Father in heaven, may look with mercy on us, His needy children on earth and grant us grace so that His holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and righteous teaching of His Word and the fervent love of our lives; that He would graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby His precious Name is blasphemed and profaned."

CONG Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Pastor: "That His kingdom may come and be enlarged; that all transgressors, the sin-darkened, and those in the bonds of Satan's kingdom be brought to a knowledge of the true faith in Jesus Christ, His Son, and the number of Christians be increased."

CONG Your Kingdom come.

Pastor: "That we may be strengthened by His Spirit to do His Will and suffer it to be done, both in life and in death, in good things and in evil, ever breaking, offering, slaying our own wills."

CONG Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Pastor: "That He would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from avarice and gluttony, relying upon Him to grant us a sufficiency of all good things."

CONG Give us this day our daily bread.

Pastor: "That He would forgive our debts as we forgive our debtors so that our heart may have

a calm and joyful conscience before Him and no sin may frighten us nor make us afraid."

CONG Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Pastor: "That He would not lead us into temptation, but help us by His Spirit to subdue the flesh, despise the world and its ways and overcome the devil with all his wiles."

CONG Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Pastor: "And finally, that He would deliver us from all evil, bodily, and spiritually, in time and in eternity.

All those who earnestly desire these things, will say, from their very hearts, Amen, believing without doubt that it is yes, and answered in heaven as Christ has promised: Whatsoever things you desire when you pray, believe that you shall receive them, and you shall have them."

CONG Amen.

The Sanctus: "Isaiah, Mighty Seer, in Days of Old" #960

Isaiah, mighty seer, in days of old

The Lord of all in Spirit did behold

High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,

With robes that filled the temple courts with light.

Above the throne were flaming seraphim,

Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.

With two they veiled their faces as was right,

With two they humbly hid their feet from sight.

And with the other two aloft they soared;

One to the other called and praised the Lord:

"Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!

Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!

Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!

His glory fills the heavens and the earth!"

The beams and lintels trembled at the cry,
And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

The Collect for the Word

Pastor: Blesséd Lord, who hast caused all Holy
 Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant
 that we may in such wise hear them, read,
 mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by
 patience and comfort of Your holy Word we
 may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blesséd
 hope of everlasting life, which you have given
 us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and
 reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, ever one
 God, world without end.

CONG Amen.

Closing Hymn: "In Peace and Joy I Now Depart" #938

1. In peace and joy I now depart Since God so wills it.
Serene and confident my heart, Stillness fills it.
For the Lord has promised me, That death is but a slumber.
2. Christ Jesus brought this gift to me, My faithful
 Savior,
 Whom You have made my eyes to see By Your favor.
 Now I know He is my Life, My friend when I am dying.
3. You sent the people of the earth Their great Salvation;
Your invitation summons forth Ev'ry nation,
By Your holy, precious Word, In ev'ry place resounding.
4. Christ is the hope and saving Light Of those in
 blindness;
 He guides and comforts those in night By His kindness.
 For Your people Israel In Him find joy and glory.

The Benediction

Pastor: 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 on
 you and † give you peace.

CONG Amen.

Liturgist: Pastor Bill Abbott
Preacher: Pastor Brock Abbott

Videographer: Lucas Abbott