

* = Please stand as you are comfortable.

Bold type indicates congregational responses.

- **Welcome! No matter your background, circumstance, or footing in faith your presence is valued and celebrated as a part of the beloved community of God today.**
- *Our worship includes opportunity to give to the ongoing and future work the congregation does in service to the community. Your generosity is appreciated and encouraged as it makes a difference in the lives of many. Gifts may be placed in the plate at the entrance before, during, or after the service, or for electronic options, see instructions in the "Offering" section of this bulletin.*

As we gather...

We recognize Reformation Sunday, hearkening back to Oct 31, 1517, when Martin Luther published his "95 Thesis" against the church practice of selling indulgences. In the thesis, he preached salvation comes by God's grace alone through faith alone. Our Bible narrative recalls the story of King David's terrible action toward Bathsheba and Uriah, and the prophet Nathan's task to hold him to account. It presents the deep tension between forgiveness and justice. Can we tell the truth to ourselves and the powers-that-be while also proclaiming God's grace and holding to accountability? The groundings of the Reformation say "yes"!

I. GATHERING

PRELUDE

Two Settings of "Ein' feste Burg" arr.M.Bradshaw/J.Innes
Carolyn Diamond, Organ and Leo Schroeder, Piano

(The prelude serves as the opening act of worship, setting the tone – reflective or festive – and inviting and preparing the congregation for blessed time together in God's word.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 118:1,24 (adapted)

Let us give thanks, for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever!

This is the day that God has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation. You are forgiven, made new, and given the promise of God's eternal love and life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace and be freed anew for love of God and neighbors.
Amen

*** GATHERING HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Trumpets: Shari Wiggins and David Yussen

ELW #504

*** GREETING**

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

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

God of forgiveness, you showed David the error of his ways, and he came to rely ever more upon your grace. In the same way, teach us to be honest with ourselves and others, to confess, to forgive and be forgiven, to seek amends, and to see how we might live in honor toward you and each other, in Jesus' name. Amen.

II. WORD

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27

(Freed from slavery, the people begin the long walk through the wilderness. Through the mouth of Moses, God declares the people as treasured and holy.)

11 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

² It happened, late one afternoon when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³ David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴ So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.)

Then she returned to her house. ⁵The woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.”

²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him.

²⁷ When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

PSALM 51:1-9 (*read responsively*)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
**according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.**

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ **For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.

⁵ **Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷ **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ **Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

SECOND READING: 2 Samuel 12:1-9

(In a parable, the prophet Nathan causes David to face to the egregious harm the king has done to his neighbor's household.)

And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had very many flocks and herds, ³ but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare and drink from his cup and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. ⁴ Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared that for the

guest who had come to him.” ⁵ Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, “As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶ he shall restore the lamb fourfold because he did this thing and because he had no pity.”

⁷ Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸ I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your bosom and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah, and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW #172

Halle, halle, hallelujah. (3x)

Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

*** GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-41**

(In the third of three parables in response to the question of his authority, Jesus depicts a landowner who is utterly rejected by the tenants.)

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Babette Chatman

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW #779

(As comfortable, all are invited to stand for the final stanza.)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE APOSTLES' CREED, ARTICLE 3, WITH EXPLANATION FROM MARTIN LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

(Written in 1529, Luther's Small catechism was provided as a tool for parents to teach the faith to their children. Luther's explanation of the 3rd Article, "On Being Made Holy," highlights the central gift of God's grace alone in faithfulness to us in Christ.)

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to you, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins – mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

*** PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or similar words.)

III. THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Gifts in cash or check can be made as the offering plates are passed. To give electronically, scan the QR code to the right or text the desired amount to (612) 688-2798



OFFERING ANTHEM

Shall We Gather at the River
Chancel Choir

ELW #423

***OFFERTORY**

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW #689, stz. 1, 4

**Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living, you have made good
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

Then with your blessing reach ev'ry people, freely confessing your gracious hand.

Where you are reigning, no one will hunger; your love sustaining showers the land.

*** PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

After each petition:

...Merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

IV. SENDING

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Triune God.

Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN**

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW# 537

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy and be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress

Jan Bender

The postlude serves as an added "Amen" to worship, offering an inspirational conclusion to our shared gathering. As God's people sent out to love, feel free to relish it seated, or let it be a blessing as you go out with joy!

Our service continues with invitation to refreshments in community together across the hall; and then in the world with all our neighbors.

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Monday, October 26. Psalm 119-41-48

Tuesday, October 27. James 2:14-26

Wednesday, October 28. John 14:21-27

Thursday, October 29. Psalm 43

Friday, October 30. 2 Peter 2:1-3

Saturday, October 31. John 8:31-36

Next week in worship...

Next week in worship we take a break from the Narrative Lectionary to celebrate the Feast of All Saints. What does that mean? We proclaim, hear, and rest in the promise that God in Christ has claimed and made us as God's own holy people. We especially recognize and remember God's saints who have gone before us. We'll specifically name people in our Richfield Lutheran community who have died in the past year, and all in attendance will have opportunity to light candles of remembrance for all of our loved ones gone before. We have the special privilege of hosting member, Rev. Dr. John Sorum, as our preacher for the day. It will be a blessed day to join in worship.

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