



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2020

Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

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.

Opening Hymn A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

(We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)

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.

Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'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.

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.

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.

Apostolic 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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

(The assembly sits.)

Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah:

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It 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. 33 But 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. 34 No 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

(The Psalm will be sung by the Cantor.)

- 1 God 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;
- 3 though 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.
- 5 God 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.
- 7 The 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;
- 9 behold 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."
- 11 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

A reading from Romans:

19 Now 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. 20 For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom 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; 26 it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*The assembly stands.*)

Alleluia!

**If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.**

Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel

John 8:31-36

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 They 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’?”

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly sits.)

The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

(The assembly remains seated.)

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

(We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord 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 Rite of Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation

(The assembly is seated.)

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these young men and this young woman, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptisms through the rite of Confirmation.

(Representative of the congregation presents the confirmands who present themselves at the altar, accompanied by parents.)

I present these young disciples of Christ who have been instructed in the Christian faith, authorized by the Congregation Council, and now desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism:

Max Hildebrand, Sidney Richardson, and Johnmichael Weaver

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these brothers and sister, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

(The assembly stands.)

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

(The assembly is seated.)

(The pastor addresses the confirmands.)

You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in

holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word
and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these brothers and sisters and
pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

(Confirmands kneel. A brief silence is kept so that prayer may be made for them.)

We give you thanks, O God,

that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth,

cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

(The presiding minister lays hands on each confirmand and prays for God's blessing.)

Stir up in Max, Sidney, and Johnmichael
the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge
and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both
now and forever.

Amen.

(The assembly stands.)

Let us rejoice with these brothers and sisters in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the Good News to all the world.

Prayers of Intercession

A: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

(Brief silence)

A: 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. We pray for all those who lead, especially our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, church council members, teachers, musicians and worship leaders. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: 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 wildfires in the American west and southwest, hurricanes in the Gulf Coast and eastern seaboard, and the land hurricane in Iowa. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: 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. We pray for this country as we near a national election. Help us to recognize what we have in common, and bind us together. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill, especially those with the coronavirus. We especially pray for the Thiel College community, for all those students who have tested positive, and all those awaiting test results. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: 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. We pray that the hope of the gospel lives on in those being confirmed today, Sidney, Max and Johnmichael. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: 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. We pray for those who have gone before us, especially Alice, Ken, Bob, Paull, and Ron. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P. 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.

C. Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(The assembly sits.)

Meal

Music as the meal is prepared Chorale prelude on *Liebster Jesu* (J.S. Bach)

(The assembly stands. The deacon, on behalf of the people, prays.)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you open your hand, filling our lives with all good things and renewing the face of the earth. We offer these gifts in thanksgiving for all that we have received from your bounty. Accept them for the sake of him who offered his life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Breaking of Bread

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

(The assembly sits.)

Communion of the Faithful

Procedure for Communing: *We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.*

(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life.

Amen.

