

An evening setting of Holy Communion



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, October 27, 2018

5:30 pm

Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

Weekend of Reformation

Interims: The Reverend Larry Hoover and Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May God's grace and peace be with you as you gather this Reformation Sunday. Today we celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit that invited a group of college professors, led by Dr. Martin Luther, to call the church to account and call us back to the One who is our center, Jesus Christ.

The Spirit worked through the Reformers to knock down the walls that church tradition had tried to erect between God and God's people. Led by the Spirit, the Reformers opposed the idea that forgiveness could be bought through the sale of indulgences. They helped people understand that one needn't have an intermediary to take their prayers to God. The Spirit led Dr. Luther to translate the Scriptures into German, the language of the people, so that all could read and hear the Bible in their own language. Most importantly, the Reformers wanted us to understand that our salvation is not something we earn, work toward, or even deserve. Salvation and a life with Jesus Christ is a gift given to us from Jesus. Jesus does this out of his own grace and mercy which he pours out on all.

The Reformers wanted us to understand that Christ is with us and this life with Jesus Christ is for us. Jesus is the great and powerful Lord of all, but he also is the Good Shepherd who knows and loves his sheep and is leading us and guiding us through the power of the Holy Spirit all of our life.

When we talk about the Reformation we are not just talking about something that happened 501 years ago. Our Lord is at work on us and is with us right now. The Spirit that called the church to Reform is the same Spirit that is at work in us now forming and re-forming us. The good news for us is that God is not finished with us.

I believe that if we truly understood how God is continually with us and working on us to shape and reform us – our entire lives would be changed. If we understood just how invested God was in our reformation and invested in the hearts and lives of all people, we would no longer find ourselves in opposition to one another. We would, as St. Paul says, "out do one other in showing honor." (Romans 12:10) We would find ourselves loving others in spite of our shortcomings through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us and on us.

Until the Lord comes again, then, the Reformation will never end. God is changing, molding, and shaping us. God is softening our hearts and opening us to be instruments of God's peace, love and mercy. Jesus Christ is alive and walking with us, calling us to follow him into this world as he is caring for and pouring grace upon grace upon this broken world. The Holy Spirit is pulling, leading, and guiding us to be part of what God is doing – loving and caring for this broken and hurting world.

May you know God's continual reformation in your life now and always.

+Bishop Michael

Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected with the offering.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

Prayer Requests may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

For your comfort there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

Devotional – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

INTRODUCTION

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Kneel/Sit

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

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

Amen.

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 is seated.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah the 31st chapter.

{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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46 (read responsively)

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.

**⁸Come 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.

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

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans the 3rd chapter.

{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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

{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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

Together we confess our faith:

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

Longing for God's will to be fulfilled among us, we pray persistently for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, work in your church across denominational and cultural divisions to form us into a more complete expression of your holy community. Show the world your likeness through us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

By rain, rivers, and oceans, remind us how your word flows through this world, surrounding us with grace. Keep us always in the covenant that is sealed in water and Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Free us from the lies we tell ourselves or others in order to justify our words and actions. Lead us to speak honestly and to listen humbly, and reveal your truth among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for people who are in danger this day (*especially*). In your righteous presence cause the evil that surrounds them to flee, and clothe them with your mercy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Continue making all things new. Seal your covenant with humankind, and write your law on our hearts. Make repentance a regular habit for us so that forgiveness abounds. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Guide all the saints in proclaiming the good news of salvation in Christ (*as you did with Simon and Jude, apostles*). Bring your people eternally into Christ's presence on the last day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

Please be seated, while the table is set.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God,

you open wide your hand

and satisfy the need of every living thing.

You have set this feast before us.

Open our hands to receive it.

Open our hearts to embrace it.

Open our lives to live it.

We pray this through 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 him thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

All glory to you, Almighty God, heavenly Father:

out of Your great love for us You gave Your only Son Jesus,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have
eternal life.

It was your Son Jesus

who freely surrendered Himself to suffer death
on the cross for us and for our salvation.

There, on that cross,

He willingly offered Himself up as a full,
perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

By that gift of love and grace

we are your people,
born of water and word,
served, fed, and forgiven at your Holy Table
and called together by Your Holy Spirit.

Therefore we offer ourselves

as disciples who follow
as witnesses to the world
and as living memory of His gift of grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son our Lord.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

On 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 many
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE 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.

LAMB OF GOD

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, grant us peace.

The assembly is seated.

The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,
you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.

Filled again by these signs of your grace,
may we hunger for your reign of justice,
may we thirst for your way of peace,
for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

QUIET MEDITATION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Set Free

We live in a time when we can look up facts and search for information with one finger. But finding “the truth”? That is more difficult. In today’s gospel Jesus offers us the truth of himself. And as we observe the 501st anniversary of the Reformation, we continue to affirm and live out this truth: we have been saved by grace through faith alone, apart from our works. We have been freed from death’s grip on us.

Truth and freedom are two great Reformation themes. It can be tempting to look on the past with a nostalgia that clouds the truth. We may respond to Jesus like the Israelites, denying the ugly parts of our past in the same way they deny their enslavement (John 8:33). However, we too have been set free from the bondage of sin through the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If we have been made free, what has God freed us to do, to be? Have we been freed to cling to our past or to live only for ourselves? To be unkind, apathetic, or compassionless? Has God freed us to ignore the poor, the homeless, the immigrant, the refugee, the marginalized?

No. We have been freed from sin so that we might serve and glorify God. We have been freed to live lives that share the good news of Jesus Christ, who became truly human out of love for creation. Beloveds, we have been freed from death so that we can truly live. That is who we are as children of the Reformation; but more important, that is who we are as children of God.

We are free; that’s the truth. Now let us live!

Daily Readings for the Week October 28-November 3

Sunday:	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 126 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52
Monday:	Psalm 119:17-24 Exodus 4:1-17 1 Peter 2:1-10
Tuesday:	Psalm 119:17-24 2 Kings 6:8-23 Acts 9:32-35
Wednesday:	Psalm 119:17-24 Jeremiah 33:1-11 Matthew 20:29-34
Thursday:	Psalm 119:1-8 Exodus 22:1-15 Hebrews 9:1-12
Friday:	Psalm 119:1-8 Leviticus 19:32-37 Romans 3:21-31
Saturday:	Psalm 119:1-8 Numbers 9:9-14 Luke 10:25-37

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