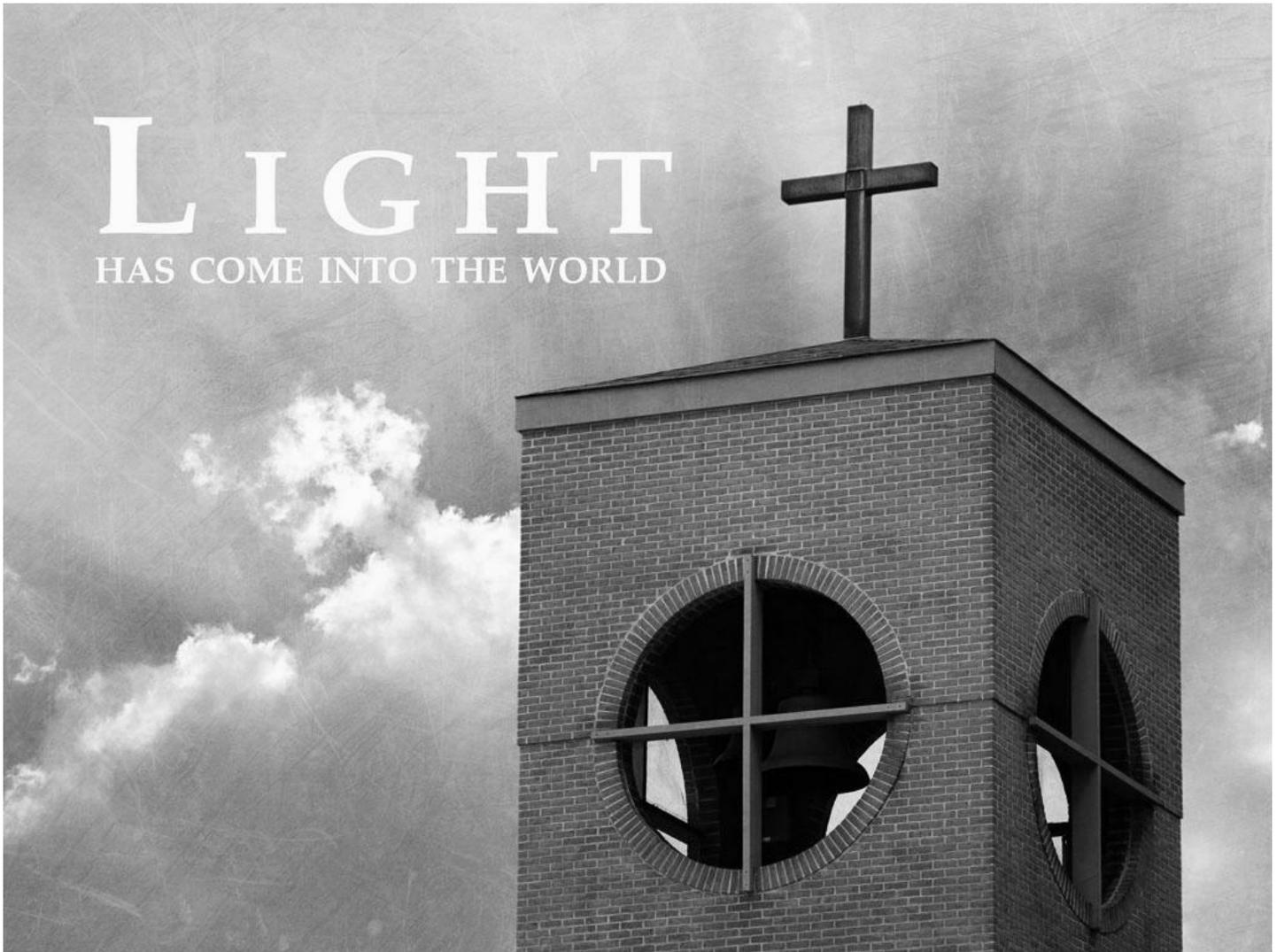


An evening setting of Holy Communion



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Saturday, October 28, 2017
5:30 pm
Holy Communion
Interim Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoover
Interim: Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile
Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994
www.stdavidslutheran.org

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 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 –Copies of Scripture readings for the month of December, Gospel Messages for Advent, Christ in Our Home (large print) devotions and The Word in Season devotions are located on the table in the back, next to the prayer box.

For your convenience there is a cry room for infants, equipped with changing table and supplies, a crib, rocking chairs, blankets, and toys. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex, turn right down the hallway, and it is the last room on the left.



500th Anniversary of the Reformation

“For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law”—Romans 3:28

The heart of Martin Luther’s work was the understanding that we are not saved by our own power or ability. Our salvation is a gift from God. In God’s tender compassion Christ Jesus comes to save us from the powers of sin, death, and the devil. We will never be good enough to earn or deserve the gifts of forgiveness, eternal life, and life with God that we receive in Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, Christ came because God loves us and would not abandon us to destruction. Salvation isn’t about us. It’s all about Jesus.

Like many of his time, the young Luther didn’t understand this idea of the free gift of life in Jesus Christ. He believed that there was a very high bar to jump over in order to earn the salvation of Christ. It was common in Luther’s day for preachers to try to scare people into behaving by telling them how bad they were and how short they fell from what God wanted for them. This type of preaching led people to think that salvation was something that they had to accomplish.

While he studied Holy Scripture, Luther rediscovered what the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans (3:28) and his heart was opened. Paul reminded Luther—and us—that it is God who makes us right through faith which is a gift to us through the Holy Spirit.

Since our salvation is secured in and through Jesus, then what are we supposed to do? Luther tells us that we are still to do good works, and we are still to love our neighbor. However, we do not do good works and good deeds SO THAT God will love us. We do good works, good deeds, acts of mercy, and works of justice BECAUSE God first loved us in Jesus Christ. We love and care for our neighbor because the Holy Spirit is leading and guiding us to do so. So, Luther would argue, don’t sit around worrying about your salvation; get out there and start helping your neighbor.

What Luther learned, and teaches us, is that Jesus Christ is the great gift that changes, forms, and reforms us. Jesus is the one who chose in his mercy to save us from sin, death, and the devil. Now Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is continuing to work in this world and inviting you and me into that work of loving and caring for all people.

The Reformation calls us to re-center our lives in Christ. We are called and led by God to be a blessing to others. All of this is possible because of what Jesus Christ has done and will continue to do. For that we can say – thanks be to God.

May you continue to be re-formed to share Christ’s love in the world, and may God be with you on this Reformation Sunday.

In Christ’s grace,
+Bishop Michael

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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

Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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. 46:4*)

¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,*

a very present | help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,***

and though the mountains be toppled into the depths | of the sea;

³ though its waters | rage and foam,*

and though the mountains tremble | at its tumult.

⁴ **The LORD of | hosts is with us;***

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁵ There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,*

the holy habitation of | the Most High.

⁶ **God is in the midst of her; she shall not be | overthrown;***

God shall help her at the | break of day.

⁷ The nations make much ado, and the king- | doms are shaken;*

God has spoken, and the earth shall | melt away.

⁸ **The LORD of | hosts is with us;***

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁹ Come now and look upon the works | of the LORD,*

what awesome things he has | done on earth.

¹⁰ **It is he who makes war to cease in | all the world;***

**he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields
with fire.**

¹¹ "Be still, then, and know that | I am God;*

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."

¹² **The LORD of | hosts is with us;***

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (*Ps. 46:4*)

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 St. 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

Silence for reflection may follow.

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

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the unity of your church. Free us to be Christ's one body, graciously receiving his life and boldly offering it to a world in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the renewal of creation: for a shared, plentiful harvest, for lands unable to bear fruit, for what is neglected or destroyed by our hand, and for the earth's advocates. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all nations of the world: for leaders of villages, cities, states, and nations, for lawmakers and judges, for teachers and students, and for all who work for peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who seek refuge and strength: refugees, the imprisoned, and those bound by addictions or burdened by guilt. We pray for the ill or injured (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for continual reformation in this and every assembly. In new beginnings, impart wisdom. In established traditions, inspire creativity. In all ministries, revive our hope in the one who makes all things new. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for your saints. United with them in the covenant of baptism, increase our faith in your promised life for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

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.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word,
inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things,
and in him you take delight.

He is your Word,
sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.
It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This is my blood poured out for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we lift this bread and cup before you,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:
Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

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

Amen, amen, amen, amen, 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

COMMUNION HYMN

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.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

QUIET MEDITATION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Free Indeed

The beginning of today's reading from John places the gospel at the heart of Christian discipleship: "If you continue in my word," Jesus says, "you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Today many congregations will observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, begun by a small-town German monk and university professor named Martin Luther. Luther was deeply concerned about the concept of truth and searched the scriptures diligently, looking for facts and certainty about the grace of God. What he found caught him by surprise. During Luther's time people were given the impression that good works and sincere hearts earned the love and forgiveness of God. But Luther read the Bible for himself and found that Jesus' love and forgiveness come without strings attached. This simple rediscovery sent shock waves through the church.

Jesus himself is the truth, and Jesus is the Son who sets every one of us free—free from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Our gathering for worship brings us into direct encounter with this truth-telling, life-giving word. We encounter this word in scripture reading, preaching, and song. Most of all, we encounter Jesus, the Word of God, the Word made flesh. All of our other understandings of the word spring from our understanding of Jesus as God's Word to us.

God has a profound and deep desire to be revealed to us. God wants to communicate with us, to let us know we are loved, claimed, valued, blessed, and called. God also makes it clear that we are called to repent, turning from sin to live for God alone. Jesus himself directly and clearly reveals the fullness of God with us. This is the good news, the truth, that makes us free—free indeed!

Daily Readings for the Week October 29-November 4

Sunday:	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46
Monday:	Psalm 119:41-48 Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25 James 2:8-13
Tuesday:	Psalm 119:41-48 Deuteronomy 10:10-22 James 2:14-26
Wednesday:	Psalm 119:41-48 Proverbs 16:1-20 Matthew 19:16-22
Thursday:	Psalm 43 1 Samuel 2:27-36 Romans 2:17-29
Friday:	Psalm 43 Ezekiel 13:1-16 2 Peter 2:1-3
Saturday:	Psalm 43 Malachi 1:6—2:9 Matthew 23:13-28

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