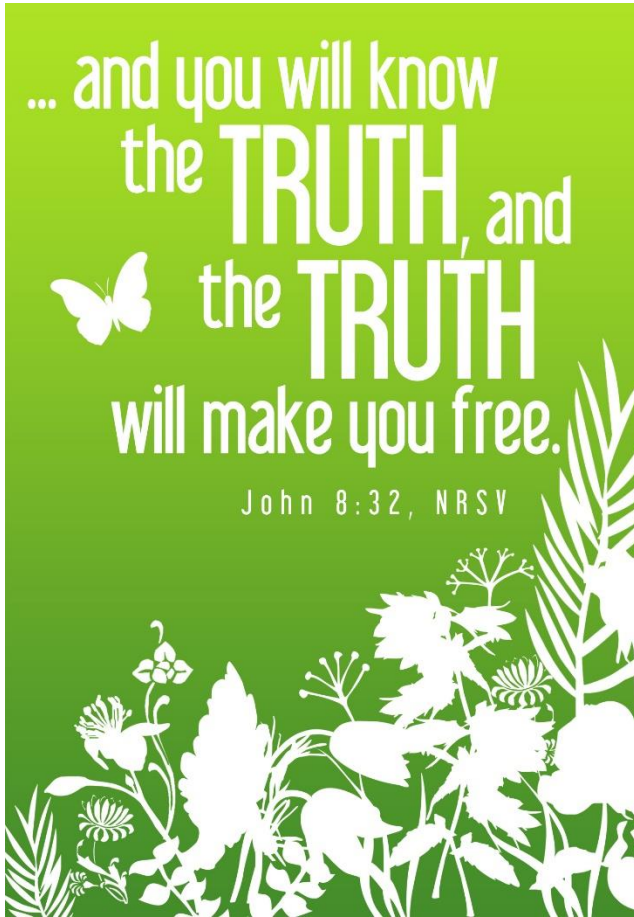


Faith Lutheran Church

October 28, 2018



Pastor Ellen Schoepf
prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
(517)349-0620



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



- To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
..we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
..we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
..we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ
-



Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement:

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26)
We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability - you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide.

Email address

faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ www.faithlutheranokemos.org
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ www.mittensynod.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ www.elca.org

Facebook

facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

You also can find the audio available on Faith’s website under worship
Sermons

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!

Sunday, October 28, 2018

Reformation Sunday

Introduction to the day

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.

If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.

The ushers also have large print copies of today’s worship folder available.

If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.

There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.

Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.

PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace”

arr. Gordon Young

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
Source of all life,
**we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.**
We fear that we are not good enough.
**We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.**
**We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.**
Forgive us. Stir us.
**Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,
act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.**
Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven,
✠ God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Gather Us In

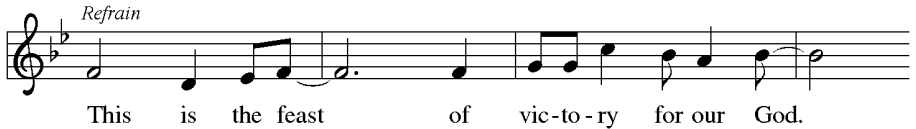
ELW #532

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

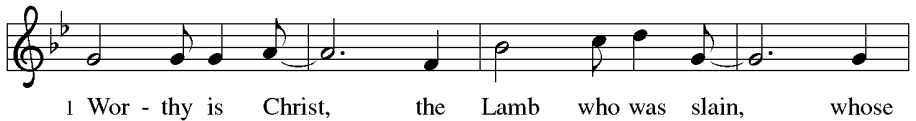
Refrain



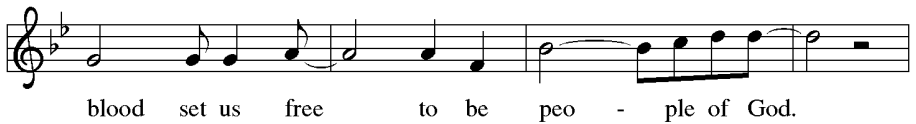
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



Refrain

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

A reading from Jeremiah.

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.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

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.

A reading from Romans.

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

By Grace We Have Been Saved



1 By grace we have been saved through faith and
2 For all have sinned and fall - en short. God's
3 God gave to earth a per - fect love through
4 We know the wage of sin is death; thank
5 Set free, we now have peace with God. Sal -



not by keep - ing law. God's saints be - lieved by
plan, not one o - beyed. Christ has for all ful -
Je - sus on the cross. While we were foes, Christ
God, we shall re - vive. For just as Je - sus
va - tion is se - cured. How beau - ti - ful the



what they heard and not by what they saw.
filled the law. Be - lieve, con - fess, be saved.
died for us. We gained by God's own loss.
rose a - gain, we too are made a - live.
feet of those who share this gos - pel word.

Refrain



Oh, how I love Je - sus! Oh, how I love Je - sus!



Oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Text: Rusty Edwards, stanzas; Frederick Whitfield, refrain
Music: OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS, North American traditional

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PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

When each of you was baptized, the members of the congregation—all of us here—made a commitment to you. We promised to support each of you, pray for each of you as you live the life God calls you to live, and provide, teach and share God's word with you. As part of that promise we made to you, we are doing something very special for you today. We are giving each of you a Bible, the most treasured book in our lives.

Calvin Kadrofske
Delphina Miyares
Maristella Miyares
Jasper Wawrzynski

Members of the congregation, let us affirm our promise to each of these children.

We promise to care for you, love you and continue to share God's word with you as you grow in faith. We promise to support you in the mission we share, always giving thanks and praise to God as together we carry God's creative and redeeming word in the world.



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.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers,
and the assembly responds:*

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 Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

“Freedom is Coming”

(South African Freedom Song)

Chancel Choir

Ian Levine, percussion

OFFERING RESPONSE

Let The Vineyards

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bles - sing. Gath - er the har -
- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them in the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta -
- ble with your pres - ence, Lord, and give us a fore -
- taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of life,

you give us these gifts of the earth,

these resources of our life and our labor.

Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,

and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

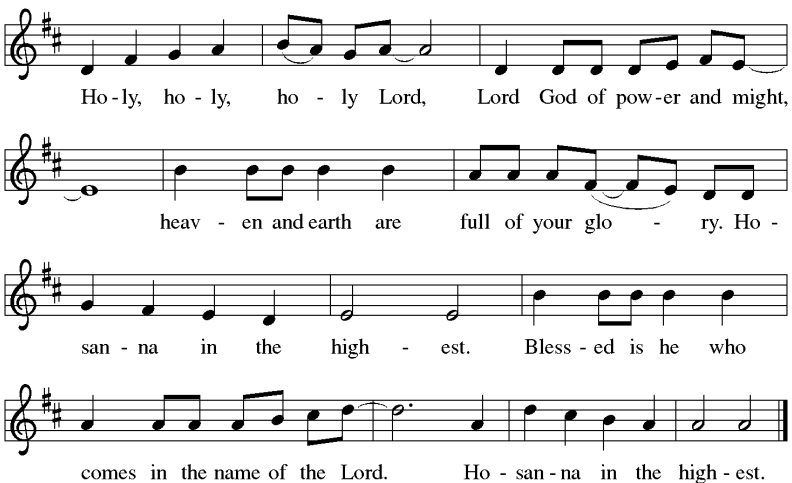
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

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

Amen



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW #779

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

That Priceless Grace

ELW #591

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy and compassionate God,
in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW #504

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“A Mighty Fortress”

arr. John Innes



Sisters & brothers in Christ, welcome to worship! May your time in the Lord be rich and blessed.

Pastor	Ellen Schoepf	prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Secretary	Katie Love	klove@faithlutheranokemos.org
High School Director		Katie Love
Trinity/Middle School Director		Maddie Wosinski
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

October 21, 2018 Attendance: 114

Serving Faith	October 28	November 4
Acolyte	Maude Lewis	Isaac Webb
Altar Care	Rich Weingartner & Tammy Heilman	
		Brenda Kopf & Cecelia Kramer
Communion Assistants	Maude Lewis	Isaac Webb
	Warren Heilman	Linda Hirt
	Ken Schoepf	Harold Sollenberger
Greeters	Gayle & Lowell Barricklow	Rich Weingartner
Readers	Warren Heilman	Linda Hirt
Lay Assistant	Ken Schoepf	Harold Sollenberger
Ushers	Doug & Linda Hirt	Bowers/Whitmyer
Nursery	Schultz Family	Marquardt's

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, October 28th: Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by...

Vase 1: the Schultz family in celebration of Lauren's birthday.

Congratulations and blessings on your 16th birthday. Love, Mom, Dad, and Erik.

Vase 2: Deb Borton-McDonough in celebration of Christine Loewen and John Borton's birthdays.