

BLESSING

M: May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: *(sung)* Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn “God's Word Is Our Great Heritage”
Christian Worship Hymn 293

God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.



HEAL miracle
SPIRIT doing
refresh
community
SEED HEARING
grace
GROWING

Reformation

NOVEMBER 2, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
1155 Executive Circle, Cary, NC 27511
(919) 465-4400
www.treeoflifenc.org info@treeoflifenc.org
Pastor Mike Geiger pastormike@treeoflifenc.org
Vicar Steve Neuman vicarsteve@treeoflifenc.org

**THE GOSPEL HAS THE POWER TO...
SET US FREE!**

Good morning!

Happy Reformation Day! On this Sunday we have the opportunity to marvel at the message that God has given to us in His Gospel. Martin Luther himself was blessed to have the simple truth of the Gospel come into his life to assure him his sins were forgiven and heaven was his. With the power of the gospel rediscovered, Luther desired to bring this emphasis back to all individuals and all aspects of the Church. Reflected in his first worship principle, "Let the Gospel predominate" he reminds all who plan and participate in worship that the primary emphasis is on what God has done or is doing for us and a distant second is what we do for God. May the power of the Gospel work in your hearts during this time of worship!

Opening Song "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
Christian Worship Hymn 200

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon; He helps us free from ev'ry need That has us now o'ertaken. The old evil foe Now means deadly woe; Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.	With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected. But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected. You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is, The almighty Lord. And there's no other God; He holds the field forever.
--	---

"O Christ, Lamb Of God" *Christian Worship page 23*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us.*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us.*

*O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace.*

A-men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

STAND

"Song of Simeon" *Christian Worship page 24*

*Lord, now you let your servant de-part in peace
ac-cord-ing to your word.*

*For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre-pared be-fore the face of all people,*

*a light to light-en the Gen-tiles
and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.*

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: (sing) And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sing) Amen.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sing)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: *(sing)* **It is good and right to do so.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name, and join their glorious song:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” *Christian Worship* page 22

*Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.*

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

*Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he,
bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

Ho-san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, when ever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still scowl fierce
as he will,
He can harm us none. He's judged; the
deed is done!
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain,
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With his good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will -- Hate, steal, hurt,
or kill --
Though all may be gone, Our victory is
won;
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text and Tune: public domain. *Setting: c 1970 by Bärenreiter-Verlag

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all!

C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

M: As we gather this morning to hear the Gospel message, we first pause to confess our sins. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16) As we hear these words, we must confess that we at times have been ashamed of the Gospel's power and lived as if it has no influence in our lives.

C: Almighty, merciful God, we confess to you that we have sinned against you by our thoughts, words and actions. Our thoughts have justified our sin and convinced us that we aren't as bad as we really are. Forgive us. Our words haven't always given clear testimony to our faith in you. Forgive us. Our actions have often indicated that we are more interested in serving self rather than serving our Savior. Forgive us.

Silence for personal confession

M: The heart of the Gospel is the reality that “God so loved the world so that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” The reality of the Gospel is that “God is faithful and just” and as we confess our sins, “he will forgive us from all our unrighteousness.” Unashamedly, as a called servant of Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the powerful name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* AMEN.

M: We rejoice in the reality of God's forgiveness.

Song of Praise “All Glory Be To God On High”
Christian Worship Hymn 263

All glory be to God on high,
Who has our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh;
The strife at last is ended.
The Father's love, the Savior's birth,
Bring peace, good will, to all the earth;
Oh, thank him for his goodness!

O Jesus Christ, the only Son
Of God, your heav'nly Father,
You did for all our sins atone,
And your lost sheep you gather.
O Lamb of God, to you on high
From depths of woe we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, Jesus!

We praise, we worship you, we trust;
We give you thanks forever,
O Father, that your rule is just
And wise and changes never.
In boundless pow'r, with mighty reign,
Done is whatever you ordain;
Your rule brings countless blessings!

O Holy Spirit, precious Gift,
Our Comforter from heaven,
Our weary hearts and souls uplift;
For this our praise is given.
Deliver us from doubt and fear;
When Satan troubles us, be near;
We trust your love and power.

Friendship Registers

Offering

Prayer of the Church Reformation—Responsive
Insert

LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

The Celebration of Holy Communion *CW pages 21-24*



At Tree of Life, we desire to have all commune with us at the Lord's Table. However, since the Scripture encourages us to “recognize the body and blood of the Lord,” “examine ourselves,” and join together as “one body,” we ask those who are visiting with us this morning to take the time to understand these teachings and establish a unity of beliefs with us before partaking of this act of fellowship. By this practice of close communion, we are in no way judging your personal faith and relationship with Jesus, we just ask for an opportunity for us to share our beliefs with you so that together we can make a true expression of oneness at the Lord's Table.

**THE GOSPEL HAS THE POWER TO...
SET US FREE!**

Galatians 5:1-6
Vicar Steve Neuman

Statement of Belief“We All Believe In One True God”

Christian Worship Hymn 271

A hymn based on the Apostle’s Creed, penned by Martin Luther.

C: *(spoken)*

We all believe in one true God,
Who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love
Has the right of children given.
He in soul and body feeds us;
All we need his hand provides us.
He through snares and perils leads us,
Watching that no harm betides us.
He cares for us by day and night;
All things are governed by his might.

We all believe in Jesus Christ,
His own Son, our Lord, possessing
An equal Godhead, throne, and might,
Source of ev'ry grace and blessing,
Born of Mary, virgin mother,
By the power of the Spirit,
Made true man, our elder brother,
That the lost might life inherit,
Was crucified by sinful men
And raised by God to life again.

We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who, sweet hope and comfort giving,
Now with the Father and the Son
In eternal light is living,
Who the Church, his own creation,
Keeps in unity of spirit;
Here forgiveness and salvation
Daily come through Jesus' merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be
In bliss with God eternally.

BE SEATED

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on 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,

C: *(sung)* AMEN.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

DANIEL 6:10-12; 16-23

“God blessed the faithful confession of Daniel despite the threat of death.”

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. 11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. 12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. 18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. 20 When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

21 Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." 23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

"On Faith Alone" *Choir*

**SECOND LESSON
GALATIANS 5:1-6**

"Let's not turn back to the law and turn away from the freedom of the Gospel."

1It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. 2Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. 4You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. 6For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

M: 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.

**GOSPEL LESSON
MATTHEW 10:16-23**

"To be an ambassador of the Gospel is not easy, but carries with it the Lord's promises."

16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. 17 "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. 18 On my account you will be brought before

governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, 20 for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 22 All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 23 When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Hymn "I Know My Faith Is Founded"
Christian Worship Hymn 403

I know my faith is founded On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;
And this my faith confessing, Unmoved I stand upon his Word.
Man's reason cannot fathom The truth of God profound;
Who trusts in worldly wisdom Relies on shifting ground.
God's Word is all-sufficient, It makes divinely sure,
And, trusting in its wisdom, My faith shall rest secure.

Increase my faith, dear Savior, For Satan seeks by night and day
To rob me of this treasure And take my hope of bliss away.
But, Lord, with you beside me I shall be undismayed;
And led by your good Spirit, I shall be unafraid.
Abide with me, O Savior, A firmer faith bestow.
Then I shall bid defiance To ev'ry evil foe.

In faith, Lord, let me serve you; Though persecution, grief, and pain
Should seek to overwhelm me, Let me a steadfast trust retain.
And then at my departure, Lord, take me home to you,
And let me there inherit All you have promised me.
In life and death, Lord, keep me Until your heav'n I gain,
Where I by your great mercy The end of faith attain.

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.