

REFORMATION DAY

Do Not Fear: The Lord of Hosts Is with Us

Observed: October 25, 2020



AS WE GATHER

Martin Luther's great hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is based on Psalm 46. When the psalm was first written, it gave courage to God's Old Testament people. Centuries later, when Luther wrote the hymn, the world was filled with plagues and death, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. Further, neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the government accepted the teachings of the reformers. Now, in our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists, political polarization, and ecclesiastical division. Because of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, we need not fear. Our gracious God is a very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the powers of the created world around us and the forces of evil from every source. From His throne flow streams of mercy to give us confident joy. We know that in the end "the kingdom ours remaineth."

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN LBS 644 "The Church's One Foundation"

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 46:1a, 2a; Romans 3:23–24a; John 8:31b–32*

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength;

People: **therefore we will not fear.**

Pastor: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

People: **and are justified by His grace as a gift.**

Pastor: If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples,

People: **and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord of hosts,

People: hear our confession of sins and grant us Your mercy and forgiveness. We have not trusted in Your promised protection and strength but have looked elsewhere for help and refuge. You alone have provided the remedy for that which truly causes our separation, troubles, and death. For the sake of Christ, Your Son, our Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from Your present help. We ask it in the name of Jesus.

Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. Because that river of grace and power has flowed over us in our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, in spite of our fear, the LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

By grace God has created each of us and everything that exists, and in the person of His Son entered our history and paid for our every sin and sin itself. In Christ's resurrection, God's promises have been made sure. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. The LORD of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord of hosts, have mercy.

Pastor: For those living in fear because of sudden disaster, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord of creation, have mercy.

Pastor: For those living in fear because of the evil intentions in the world and in us, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord of lords, have mercy.

Pastor: For those living in fear because of evil forces within the Church and oppression beyond it, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Christ, our Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Amen.

HYMN

LSB 794 "The Lord, My God, Be Praised"

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, always present in trouble, silence our fears when Your good creation seems out of control and evil appears to run rampant.

Like the dawning of a new day, dispel the darkness of our hearts and renew confident faith in Your constant presence and gracious protection; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING *Revelation 14:6–7*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Romans 3:19–28*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Luke 12:32*

Pastor: Alleluia. Fear not, little flock,

People: **for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 8:31–36*

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN 664 "Fight the Good Fight"

SERMON

HYMN LSB 566 "By Grace I'm Saved" vs 1-4

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: 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.**

OFFERTORY LSB 782 “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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. *Numbers*
 6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN LSB 657 “ A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

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