

**Worship Plan for Sunday, October 25, 2020**  
Reformation Sunday  
Zion Lutheran Church



## **WELCOME**

**+Happy Reformation Day! On behalf of Zion, a special welcome to our guests, friends, neighbors, and family. Your presence enriches this community in so many ways. We are glad you are here.**

**+For today's worship, you need a candle and bread & wine. During the prayers of the people, you will be invited to put prayer requests in the chat box around three themes: we give thanks; we pray for the world; and we pray for those in need.**

**+In today's readings, which are the traditional Reformation Day readings, we hear themes of covenant, faith, and truth, themes often associated with the Reformation. In a deeply divided climate, what is truth? How does it set us free? And how is it connected with the ongoing reformation of the church?**

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE AND CENTERING**

*You are invited to center yourself in this worship through a moment of prayer.*

*This week, consider a breath prayer or a word prayer:*

- *Breath prayer – breath deeply, recognizing God's own breath in your breath, God's presence within and beside you*

*Or*

- *Word Prayer –silently repeat Jesus' words, "The truth will make you free."*

*Please light your candle.*

## GATHERING DIALOGUE

P Since Abraham and Sarah,  
A since Mary and Paul,  
P since Luther and Muhlenberg,  
A since 1914 in the Houston Heights

P We gather to you, O God.  
C **We gather to you, O God.**

P Here is the word of life,  
A here is the water of rebirth,  
P here is the meal of mercy,  
A here is the grateful assembly.

P Gather us to you, O God.  
C **Gather us to you, O God.**

P We gather, wet from the water,  
A We gather, listening to the word,  
P We gather, already the body of Christ.  
A We gather, eager for your continued Reformation.

P Come, Holy Spirit, and gather us in love.  
C **Come, Holy Spirit, and gather us in love.**

# OPENING HYMN

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW #503

1 A might - y for - tress is our God,  
2 No strength of ours can match his might!  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide,

a sword and shield vic - to - rious;  
We would be lost, re - ject - ed.  
all threat - 'ning to de - vour us,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;

he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod  
But now a cham - pion comes to fight,  
we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand;  
for God him - self fights by our side

and wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.  
whom God him - self e - lect - ed.  
they can - not o - ver - pow'r us.  
with weap - ons of the Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe, sworn to work us woe,  
Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he!  
This world's prince may rage, in fierce war en - gage.  
If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,

with dread craft and might he arms him - self to fight.  
Christ Je - sus our Lord, God's on - ly Son, a - dored.  
He is doomed to fail; God's judg - ment must pre - vail!  
wrench our life a - way, they can - not win the day.

On earth he has no e - qual.  
He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## **GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

*A reading from Jeremiah.*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It 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. But 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. No 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 46**

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now, regard the works of the Lord,  
what desolations God has brought up on the earth;

behold 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.

“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## **SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28**

### ***A reading from Romans.***

Now 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. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom 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; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

### **GOSPEL**

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They 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'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

## **SILENCE FOR REFLECTION**

## **SOLO**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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**

**P** For our prayers of intercession, you are invited to respond to each prompt through the chat box. We will have three petitions – we give you thanks for, we pray for the earth, the world, and our nation, and we pray for those who are sick and suffering in any way. I will speak the prompt out loud, and we will have several moments of silence for you to respond in the chat box, which I will read out loud.

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

We give you thanks for...

**A** Lord in your mercy

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray for the earth, the world, and our nation...

**A** Lord in your mercy

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way...

**A** We pray especially for Helmuth, Agnes, Kathy, Ellie, Gene, Harold, Priscilla, Nora, Delores, Harvey, Barbara, Dianne, Marvin and Gerry, Carolyn, the family of Harvey Bongers, Dalanne  
Lord in your mercy

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

Zion is receiving offerings by the Tithely app or by mail:

Zion Lutheran Church

3606 Beauchamp

Houston, TX 77009

*Benevolence for October will benefit Santa Maria Hostel.*

## **STEWARDSHIP FOCUS – Interview with Katie Euscher**

### **MEAL**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

**C Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.  
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.  
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,  
nourish us with this rich food and drink,  
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,  
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray, as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

*You are invited to receive the bread and wine with the words "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you"*

## **TABLE BLESSING**

**P** Now that you have tasted the goodness of God in bread and wine, let us be the body of Christ, blessed and broken for the whole world.

**C** **Amen.**

## SENDING

### SENDING SONG

How Firm a Foundation

ELW #796



- 1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
- 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
- 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

ELW #

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

**P** May God, Creator of all things, speak truth into being;  
May Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, raise the church to new life;  
May the Holy Spirit, living voice, call and enlighten your beloved people:  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**DISMISSAL & PEACE**

A Go in peace! Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God, (*and WE WILL*)

A Please share the peace with one another.