

October 30, 2011

Reformation Sunday (20/24)

Paraments are green; color of life in nature signifies our spiritual life in Christ's kingdom.

Welcome to all! This week's focus:

God is our Refuge and Strength

Today's order of service and hymns: "Gathering Rite"

465 ♦ Children's Hymn ♦ 381 ♦ 651 ♦ 262:4

Bells – Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: #465 [Red Hymnal]

THE INVOCATION

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

PASTOR: We begin our worship service today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONGREGATION SINGS: *[Red hymnal #262:1]*

**A mighty Fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need, That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil Foe, Now means deadly woe; Deep guile & great might
Are his dread arms in fight; On Earth is not his equal.**

PASTOR: The Christian serves God in the midst of turmoil and opposition. God has not promised it would be otherwise. We may be tempted to think that because we are on God's side and try to serve Him, we should be popular or at least have an easy life. Jesus Christ Himself certainly deserved the best this world could offer, but instead endured suffering and pain. Our joy will be found in heaven, not in this world. Yet our enemies will not succeed in overwhelming us, because God will watch over and protect us.

CONGREGATION SINGS: *[Red hymnal #262:2]*

**With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is. Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

PASTOR: Let us therefore confess and pray:

ALL: O Lord Jesus Christ, You came into this world to call sinners to repentance and to bring the light of the Gospel to all. We are not worthy of the least of Your mercies and Your truth. We thank and praise You for Your goodness and mercy, in releasing Your Church from the false teachings at the time of the Reformation through reformers like Martin Luther. You

once again affirmed the gracious truth that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ, not by the works of our sinful flesh. Graciously forgive therefore, whatever we have done wrong against You and Your holy Word, and protect us and Your whole Christian Church on earth from all error, unbelief, and other harm. Cleanse and reform our sinful hearts daily, and keep us, Oh Holy Spirit, in our faith until we are called to our eternal joy and salvation with Christ our Lord. Amen.

PASTOR: Upon this confession of your sins, by the promise and authority of Christ our Savior, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONGREGATION SINGS: [*Red hymnal #262:3*]

**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.**

1ST SCRIPTURE LESSON ~ JEREMIAH 31:31-34

*In the **Old Testament Lesson**, God proclaims a new covenant with His people, a new covenant that will be characterized by knowledge of His Word and forgiveness of sin.*

31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah -- 32 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 "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 in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

CHILDREN'S HYMN: "Out of Darkness, into Light"

2ND SCRIPTURE LESSON ~ ROMANS 3:19-28

*In the **Epistle**, Paul discusses the righteousness of God that comes by faith alone without works of the Law.*

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

CONFESSION OF FAITH ~ APOSTLES' CREED

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn of the Day: #381 [Red Hymnal]

SERMON

Jesus said, "...Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" ~Luke 11:28

Psalm 46 1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A Song for Alamoth. God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, Even

though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah 4 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. 6 The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. 10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! 11 The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

Theme: **“Be still...” And know WHO is God.**

1. He rebukes with His power!
2. He comforts with His peace.

THE OFFERTORY ~ TLH PG. 22

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

SERMON HYMN: #651 [Red Hymnal]

OUR OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS TO THE LORD

“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

WE GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD: [Red hymnal #441:1,2]

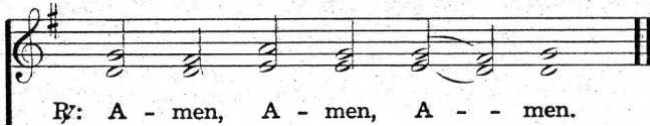
**We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
May we Thy bounties thus, As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!**

SPECIAL PRAYERS ~ GENERAL PRAYER ~ LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.



CLOSING HYMN: #262:4 [Red Hymnal]

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 take they our life, Goods, fame, child and wife,
Let these all be gone, They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to all! Guests, please sign our guest book in entryway and we hope you will come and join us again! Questions? (920) 922-7421

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE *"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15*

- Today:** 9am Bible Study/Sunday School; 10am Worship (GR)
Youth/Adult CHOIR & CHIMERS – practice after service
4pm CLC Joint Reformation Service (meal to follow)
NO CHIMERS tonight...
- Tues:** 7pm Ladies meeting
- Thurs:** 9am (1st/3rd week) Women's Bible Reading (Acts)
- Sun:** 9am Study/Sunday School; 10am Communion (TLH)
7:30pm Chimers

FALL CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan, WI, is hosting a Fall Christian Music Festival. We are inviting your congregation members not only to come, but to participate as well. We welcome musicians of any age, of every kind (vocal, solo/ensemble, instrumental - wind, string, brass, keyboard, etc.) as well as Christian music of every genre (baroque to contemporary). NOTE: As this is a fall festival, we ask that you not prepare any Christmas selections. *Interested in coming to listen?* **The Festival will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 13th**, with a light supper afterwards (Faith Lutheran will provide the table service, as well as the meat and drinks). Those attending are encouraged to bring a bag of chips, salad, and/or dessert. *Interested in being a participant?* Contact Pastor Paul Krause (920-398-2778) PTKrause@clclutheran.com

CLC General Teacher Conference Papers are available upon request:

- How to Promote Your School
- Classroom Management
- Christian schools/Mission tools
- Book report: "A Well-Trained Mind"
- "Under Our Spiritual Care"
- A Beka Reading Series Evaluation
- Comprehension: Connecting Literacy, Thinking & Conversation

Witnessing idea for the week:

Lord, grant to Your servants that with all boldness we may speak Your word. (Acts 4:29)

A Witness for Halloween...

So many doors ready to open, so many hands waiting for a treat! Halloween often has scary monsters, horror movies, and such that play on our fear of death, pain, and suffering.

What's the solution?

Do enough good things to get rescued from such?

We know better!

Hmm. If handing free goodies out anyway, why not also hand out to the "trick or treaters" a little something that would point to the reason for death and suffering, but also God's solution for it through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

Wouldn't that be a treat without a trick!?!

****Orange handouts are in the entryway. Take them today!***

THIS SUNDAY Usher Team 4 = Wayne Wischnefski, Alan Kottke, Chris Sabel, Ron Haensgen, Mark King **Organist: Mrs. Eserhut**

NEXT SUNDAY Usher Team 1 = Lowell Boelk, Rodney Kern, John Scheberl, Larry Stubbs, Craig Youngerberg **Organist: Mrs. Fillmore**

HOW TO LIVE AND HOW TO DIE: As we celebrate the Reformation this year, we are closing in on the 500th anniversary of that event. In 1517 God's servant Martin Luther struck the blow that left an indelible mark on the church world. Every Lutheran who appreciates the heritage of the Lutheran Church appreciates the boldness with which Luther stood against the pope, and how at Worms he in the face of fierce opposition made the sterling confession that he would not take back or deny what he had written and taught unless he could be shown from clear Scripture that he was wrong.

As Lutherans we are not about praising Luther, but about thanking the Lord for having raised up a man of lowly reputation to accomplish by God's grace what others before him had tried but failed to accomplish. This was due in no small part to Luther's emphasis that, as corrupt as the pope and Catholic Church were, the issue was not about papal indiscretions, but about doctrine. While John Wycliffe and John Huss before him attacked the lives of the popes, Luther attacked their and the

church's doctrine. Luther's intent was not to start a revolution against the pope or the Catholic Church. Rather, his interest was in reforming the church. In 1523 Luther said, "What is good we shall keep" (What Luther Says, Vol. III, p.1183 [note]). For him it was all about the Word of God and the freedom to preach and teach that Word faithfully. He said, "We have never yet desired anything else, nor do we now desire anything else, than the liberty to have the Word of God, or the Holy Scriptures, to teach and to practice it" (Vol. III p.1178, para. 3764). How far from Luther's steadfastness and love for the pure Word of God much of Lutheranism has fallen today!

What strikes one is that while Luther spoke boldly and stood firmly in the heat of battle, he nevertheless had to deal with personal weaknesses and even doubts. He was subject to depression. About the beginning of the Reformation he commented, "How often my heart struggled, rebuked me, and threw up to me their one and strongest argument: 'You alone are wise?'" (Vol. III p.1174, para. 3756). How often have faithful pastors and members who have taken a firm stand for the Word of God had the same pangs today! Luther acknowledged that in spite of those conscience pangs, the Lord strengthened him through His certain Word. That admission certainly implies strongly that Luther was a student of the Word. He was a living example of the word of the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Those who travel today to Eisleben, Germany, the city of his birth, can stand at the bed in the room in which Luther died. As he lay dying, he kept repeating, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (John 3:16). No matter how faithful the preacher, pastor, and church member, all are reduced to equal status when death is at the door. The only thing that overcomes the fear of death is the blessed gospel, the certainty of Jesus' redemptive love through which He freely paid for the sins of the world--and thus for the sins of the dying Christian! Luther's pastor friend, Justus Jonas, asked the Reformer, "Do you want to die standing firm on Christ and the doctrine you have taught?" Luther answered, "Yes." He died shortly thereafter. In his pocket was found a scrap of paper on which Luther had written—and this expresses his humility—"No one can think that he has tasted the Holy Scripture thoroughly until he has ruled the churches with the prophets for a hundred years." He concluded with the following words (in Latin): "*This is true, we are all beggars.*" (Quotes from *Luther the Reformer*, Kittelson, p.297).

Beggars before God! Beggars before God swallow their pride in the face of death. They do not rest on personal laurels. They know that their personal reputation is of no account before God. They do not trumpet their good works, or personal worth (before God they have none!). Instead they exclaim with the tax collector in the temple, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18: 13). "They make that appeal with the confidence of Saint Paul, who said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief "(1 Timothy 1: 15.). The wealth of the beggar is the despised Christ, His cross, and His gloriously empty tomb. The glory of the dying Christian is Christ's robe of righteousness on account of which the Father in heaven is compelled to receive to heaven each sinner who dies in faith in Jesus Christ! "Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word," And then receive us to glory everlasting. —Pastor Daniel Fleischer Emeriti