

## Augustana

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

Reformation Sunday October 25, 2020

ELW setting 4

**Welcome** to worship.

**Thanks** to worship assistants Wayne and Eileen Carlson, musicians Deb Buck and choir members, tech people Bryan and Greg.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow in to the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

*\*\*can this scroll through the video?\**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. Amen.

### GATHERING SONG "Thy Strong Word" # 511 1, 2, 3

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;  
 at thy speaking it was done.  
 For created light we thank thee,  
 while thine ordered seasons run.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Praise to thee who light dost send!  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
 dark as night and deep as death,  
 broke the light of thy salvation,

breathed thine own live-breathing breath.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to thee who light dost send!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;

bright with thine own holiness,

glorious now, we press toward glory,

and our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise to thee who light dost send!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

#### GREETING

As we begin our time of worship we ask that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us.

#### GLORY TO GOD

Cantor: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father. We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated on the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

#### CHILDREN'S TIME

- Rules – school rules ... covid 19 rules – rules for meetings
- 10 commandments
- Can you remember all the rules? Probably not. That's why the 10 commandments and small catechism is in the back of the hymn book ... to help us remember.
- How wonderful if the rules: Love God with all your heart and soul and mind and love your neighbour as yourself – are written on our hearts. No need to find ways to remind or remember them. They are part of us.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Gracious God, write your law on our hearts and let your word of grace dwell in us so that no matter where we are, we may know we are forgiven and free. Amen.

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### **A reading from the prophet Jeremiah chapter 31**

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*

#### **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 should change,  
 though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
 though its waters roar and foam,  
 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 moved;  
 God will help it when the morning dawns.  
 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
 he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
 The LORD of hosts is with us;  
 the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the LORD;  
 see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
 he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;

he burns the shields with fire.  
 'Be still, and know that I am God!  
 I am exalted among the nations,  
 I am exalted in the earth.'  
 The LORD of hosts is with us;  
 the God of Jacob is our refuge.

### **A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 3**

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, irrespective of 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*

### **Thanks be to God**

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to St. John chapter 15:1-5

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in*

*me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.*

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

#### MEDITATION

It was a dark and stormy night, there was a young man who was caught outside in the midst of thunder and lightning. And in the midst of that storm he cried out, “St. Ann, I will become a monk, if only you will save me.” St. Ann must have passed the message along, because the young man lived to tell the story and he lived to become a monk .... And a pastor, and a teacher, and a hymn writer. We know him mostly as Martin Luther, a reformer of the church.

But let’s play the “what if?” game. What if that young man had called out “St. Ann, save me, I will become a financial analyst .... Or a nanny .... Or a farmer .... Or a store clerk ..... “ and so on and so on ....

I know that playing the “what if” game might seem pointless, because that isn’t the way things happened and you can’t change the past. But I also think that the “what if” game might help us to see a larger picture.

Martin would have excelled at whatever he did ... I’m glad that he excelled at being a renewer of the church. However, if he had taken on another role he would still have been a branch on the vine.

A purely practical tangent: for many years I was confused about vines and branches. You may not be so confused, but just in case ... I always thought that a branch was the main thing that a vine grew off of, like the tendrils on my sweet pea plant that cling to the trellis. I thought the tendrils were the vine. But the vine Jesus talks about here is a grape vine .. and a grape vine does have tendrils that cling. But the vine is the main stock that is rooted in the soil. The

branches grow off that vine, they receive the moisture and nutrients they need from the vine, they depend on the vine for their very life.

So if Jesus is the vine that is firmly rooted in the goodness of the creator, then we are the branches that grow off the vine. We depend on the vine for nourishment and life.

But that is where the image ends. We are not called to be clones of one another. We are not called to be the same as every other branch on the vine. The vine supports and nourishes all kinds of branches. Monks and pastors, yes. But also bank tellers, plumbers, physicists, students, recyclers of telephone books and on and on. We are called to many things: but at the same time we are called to one thing: to be followers of Jesus. To love God with all our heart and soul and mind and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Let's play "what if again" Again on that dark and stormy night what if that young man had cried out, "St. Ann, save me I will become a Lutheran?" or an Anglican or a Baptist or African Methodist Episcopal ...

Again the many are one when they are connected to the vine. .... May we, though many, be united in the vine that is Christ.

Prayer: Loving God, we pray for the people of faith who are the church. As we seek to faithfully follow Jesus fill us with all truth and peace. Where we are corrupt, purify us; where we are in error, direct us; when we are wander in the wrong direction, reform us; where we are right, strengthen us; where we are in need, provide for us; when we are divided, reunite us. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

SONG "That Priceless Grace" # 591 verses 1, 2, 4  
 That priceless grace, that priceless grace,  
 that priceless grace, which gave me life:  
 Jesus' life is priceless grace.

That priceless grace is life for me.

That priceless blood, that priceless blood,  
that priceless blood was shed for me:  
Jesus' blood is priceless grace.  
That priceless grace is life for me.

That precious word, that precious word,  
that precious word, which brought me light:  
Jesus' word is priceless grace.  
That priceless grace is life for me.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words "show us your mercy" and you can make the prayer your own by responding "**hear our prayer!**"

As we commemorate the Reformation this year, we do so in a time of pandemic. With the ecumenical and global family, we bring our prayers for healing. And we join with our sisters and brothers of other communions in joint service to the neighbor, in restraint and vigilance, and in shared witness. Let us now pray for the world, the church and all those in need...

God of mercy, throughout history your goodness prevails, open the hearts of all people to discover the deep bond of community. Show us your mercy!

#### **Hear our prayer!**

God of peace, bend that which is inflexible, the identity barriers that divide, the attachments that thwart reconciliation. Bring peace in this world, especially in [name countries, places...]. Restore wholeness among us and show us your mercy!

#### **Hear our prayer!**

God, our healer, come to our aid as COVID-19 continues to spread, heal those who are sick, protect families and friends from being infected. Support those in public health and medical services. Strengthen our resolve to eradicate all diseases, malaria, dengue, HIV & AIDS, and many others. We pray especially for: Hannah, Marguerite, Bruce, Gloria, Logan, William, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Anne Jane, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Martha, the family of Jean Spurgeon, for those who feel alone, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts .....

(a pause to offer time to name others)

Be their refuge, O God. Show us your mercy!

**Hear our prayer!**

God of justice, hasten justice for those suffering under the power of evil and every form of oppression and greed. Give new life to all. Show us your mercy!

**Hear our prayer!**

God, rock and fortress, protect refugees, those without homes or security, all the abandoned children. Help us always to defend human rights and dignity. We pray for safe refuge for the Alhamad – Wahid and Iqbal families. Show us your mercy!

**Hear our prayer!**

God creator, all creation groans in expectation, convert us from exploitation. Teach us to live in harmony with your creation. Show us your mercy!

**Hear our prayer!**

God of mercy, strengthen and protect those who are persecuted for faith in you and those of other faiths who suffer persecution. Give us the courage to profess our faith. Show us your mercy!

**Hear our prayer!**

God of life, heal painful memories, transform complacency and indifference, inspire and sustain our ecumenical journey from conflict to communion, all of us branches on the one vine, Jesus Christ. Show us your mercy!

**Hear our prayer!**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Marilyn: Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

**LORD'S PRAYER**

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.



## BLESSING

May the blessing of God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. AMEN.

## SENDING SONG      “A Mighty Fortress” # 504 verses 1 &amp; 4

A mighty fortress is our God,  
 a sword and shield victorious;  
 he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
 and wins salvation glorious.  
 The old satanic foe  
 has sworn to work us woe!  
 With craft and dreadful might  
 he arms himself to fight.  
 On earth he has no equal.

God's Word forever shall abide,  
 no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
 for God himself fights by our side  
 with weapons of the Spirit.  
 Were they to take our house,  
 goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
 though life be wrenched away,  
 they cannot win the day.  
 The kingdom's ours forever!

## DISMISSAL

Go now to love and serve the Lord  
 THANKS BE TO GOD. AMEN.

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A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546, *tr. Lutheran Book of Worship*;  
 tune: Martin Luther, 1483 – 1546; Text: © 1978, *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

That Priceless Grace, text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868.

Thy Strong Word, text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976, tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944; arr. Richard W. Hillert;

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