



REFORMATION SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 25, 2020

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***SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

4660 West 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040  
Pastor John Moeller

[www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org)  
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

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## 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, the church was struggling, and the devil was recognized as active in the lives of everyday people. Now in our day, we face cyber warfare, pandemics, terrorists, political polarization, and divisions among God's people. But 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, and we know that in the end "the kingdom ours remaineth."

## Prelude

"A Mighty Fortress"

J. Pachelbel

## Opening Hymn Solo

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need  
That hath 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.

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.

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.

4 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,  
Though these all be gone,  
Our vict'ry has been won;  
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Text: Public domain

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

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

**P** God is our refuge and strength;

**C** therefore we will not fear.

**P** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**C** and are justified by His grace as a gift.

**P** If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples,

**C** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

## Confession and Absolution

*Incorporating Psalm 46:4, 7, 11*

- P** Lord of hosts,  
**C** hear our confession of sins and our pleas for Your mercy and forgiveness. We have not always trusted in Your promised protection and strength, but we've looked elsewhere for help and refuge. You have provided the remedy for the cause of our separation, trouble, and death. For the sake of Your Son, our Savior and Redeemer, grant us forgiveness and deliverance from all that would keep us from You and Your salvation. We ask it in the name of Jesus.
- P** There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. Because that river of grace and power has flowed over us in our Baptisms into the death and resurrection of Jesus, you can be confident that 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 has entered our history and paid the price of all our sins. 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.

- C** Amen. The Lord of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our fortress!

## ✠ WORD ✠

### Psalm

*Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7*

- C** The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- P** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
- C** The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- P** 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 her; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.  
The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
He utters his voice, the earth melts.
- C** The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- P** Come, behold the works of the Lord,  
how He has brought desolations on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
He burns the chariots with fire.  
"Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!"
- C** The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

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

**C** 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. Amen.

## First Reading

✠ The Message of the Angel ✠

*Revelation 14:6–7*

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. <sup>7</sup>And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Anthem of Praise

““Lord, Be Glorified””

B. Kilpatrick

## Epistle

✠ The Righteousness of God Through Faith ✠

*Romans 3:19–28*

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup>It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

✠ The Truth Will Set You Free ✠

*John 8:31–36*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came  
down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the  
virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius  
Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according  
to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge  
both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and  
apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the  
remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

### Sermon Hymn Solo

#### “Thy Strong Word”

*sts. 1, 3, 5–6*

1 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!

3 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!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias,  
Alleluias without end!

$\triangle$  6 God the Father, light-creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!

## Sermon

## Prayer of the Church

**Offering**—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving always available on our website. If you brought your pledge card to return today, just leave it in the offering plate.*

## Offertory Meditation

# ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

## Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## Proper Preface

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

## The Words of Our Lord

## Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.  
**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven...

## CLOSING PRAYER

## Benediction

- P** 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.  
**C** Amen.

# ✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

## Closing Hymn Solo

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,  
Among us with Your grace  
That Satan may not harm us  
Nor we to sin give place.

4 Abide with richest blessings  
Among us, bounteous Lord;  
Let us in grace and wisdom  
Grow daily through Your Word.

2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,  
Among us with Your Word,  
And thus now and hereafter  
True peace and joy afford.

5 Abide with Your protection  
Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.

3 Abide with heav’nly brightness  
Among us, precious Light;  
Your truth direct and keep us  
From error’s gloomy night.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.

Text: Public domain

## Postlude

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

J. Pachelbel



## ✠ a note regarding flowers on the altar... ✠

Flowers on the altar last Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> were given in loving memory of Henry Young on the occasion of Henry and Maria’s 33<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

The Altar Flowers on October 11 were given in loving memory of Joe Bonder by his family.

I apologize for neglecting to include our thanks to those who have donated flowers in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions over the past several months. We greatly appreciate all that is done to beautify our Lord’s house for our worship services, and I certainly hope that the tradition will continue. Please consider placing an arrangement on the altar for your special occasion or commemoration. Call sandy in the church office for more information.

Thank you,  
Pastor John



## Acknowledgments

Our vocalists today are Glenn and Marilyn Bitner

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**Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family:**

Jim Hoefler	Delores Musser
Rich Hagberg	Larry Gurga
Janice Przybycien	Jeff Barth
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Del Purdy
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
David Kandel	Karen Martinez
Gloria Crook	Birdie Onken
Roy Hodgeman	Lenore Curran
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
Jane & Freddie Giacobbe	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Lorraine Zagralis
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Connie Braun
Kurt Seehofer	Beverly Sellers
George Thies	Norma Silinski
Laverne Abraham	Jacob Ayala
The Polezoes family	The Anderson Family
Susan E. Volk	Kevin Hickey

***We pray ...***

For Jason Valenzuela and Mary Larson who were married here at St. Paul yesterday.

***Remember:***

Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday morning.  
Fall back one hour.  
We'll be celebrating All Saints' Day on Sunday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Please pray for these friends and family of our members**

Susan M. Volk	Al Silinski
Fred Raff	Cutie Kemp
Dorothy Kroll	Anthony Krcelic, Jr.
Lee Fauser	Edward Wirtschoreck
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Sam Bessler	John Grady
Patricia Paulsen	Clare Donovan
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Christopher Bruck
Edgar Hill	Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Rev. Bob Mitchell	John Carmichel
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	Bryan Wallen
Booker Cooper	Doreen Holford
Jerry Gross	Ed Kristof
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kesling
Elizabeth Hoefler	Mike Mavraganes
Ron Lunt	The Tom Stiso Family
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Connie Outman	Charley Heitz
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Peg Tebo
Sue Hardin	Justin & Ashley Fasel
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Allyson Seehofer	Dana Kahn
Carl Bohne	Paul Noffke
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	John Carmichel
Donald Hakanson	Lisa Thomas
Patrick Pasqua, Sr.	Donna Campbell
James Barclay	Carl Hoppe
Amy Clancy	The Lamberth Family
Penny Hartman	

***Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040.***