



REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2023

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

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 and actual 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 our very present help in this time of trouble. He is our refuge against the forces of evil and the powers of the created world, and we know that in the end, *"the kingdom ours remaineth."*

✠ Divine Service Setting One ✠

Prelude

"A Mighty Fortress"

J. Pachelbel

Stand

Opening Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress"

#656

(Choir only sings stanza 2, Congregation sings 1, 3 & 4)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 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. | 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. | 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. |
| 2 <i>Choir Only</i> | | |
| 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. | | |

Text: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We pause to remember our sins before our gracious Heavenly Father

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

☩ Word ☩

Psalm

Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7

P The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

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

P Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

C though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

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

C God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

P The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

C Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth.

P He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
He burns the chariots with fire.

C "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

This Is the Feast

LSB 155

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the
hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and
the Lamb forever. Amen.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
blood set us free to be people of God.

Refrain

Refrain

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and
honor, blessing, and glory are His.

Refrain

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray...

Merciful Lord, You shined Your light into the darkness and sent Your Word...

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading

✠ The Eternal Gospel ✠

Revelation 14:6-7

⁶Then 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. ⁷And 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.

Choir Anthem

"Thy Word Is a Lamp"

Amy Grant; M. Smith

Epistle

✠ The Righteousness of God Through Faith ✠

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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. ²⁶It 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. ²⁷Then 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. ²⁸For 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.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (*sung*)

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

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.**

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

✠ **Confession of Faith** ✠

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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Sermon Hymn

"Thy Strong Word"

#578 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!

△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!

*Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by
permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001400*

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 is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Choir Anthem

“Ye Servants of God”

arr. M. Pooler

A word about the Sacrament of the Altar...

We believe Jesus' own words that the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion is indeed His true Body and Blood and not just a representation of it. We also acknowledge St. Paul's instruction to the Church at Corinth that it is harmful for anyone to receive the Sacrament without recognizing the real presence of His Body and Blood. Because of this, in Christian love we ask anyone who does not understand these truths to please refrain from receiving the Sacrament until you've spoken with the pastor. (*Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-30*)

✠ The Sacrament of the Altar ✠

Stand

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.

P It is truly good, right, and proper...

Sanctus (*sung*)

LSB 161

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might:
 Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
 Hosanna. Hosanna.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord’s Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C Our Father who art in heaven...

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei (*sung*)

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

“By Grace I’m Saved”

#566 sts. 1-4

1 By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless;
 My soul, believe and doubt it not.
 Why stagger at this word of promise?
 Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
 No! Then this word must true remain:
 By grace you too will life obtain.

2 By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
 Our works and conduct have no worth.
 God in His love sent our Redeemer,
 Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
 His death did for our sins atone,
 And we are saved by grace alone.

3 By grace God’s Son, our only Savior,
 Came down to earth to bear our sin.
 Was it because of your own merit
 That Jesus died your soul to win?
 No, it was grace, and grace alone,
 That brought Him from His heav’nly throne.

4 By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
 As long as God is true, it stands.
 What saints have penned by inspiration,
 What in His Word our God commands,
 Our faith in what our God has done
 Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

Text: Public domain

“Amazing Grace”

#744

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see! | 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven’s joy and peace. |
| 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures. | 5 When we’ve been there ten thousand
years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we’d first begun. |
| 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home. | |

*Text (sts. 1–5): Public domain
Text (sts. 1s–4s): © 1991 Editorial Concordia. Used by
permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001400*

“The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace”

#580

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 The Gospel shows the Father’s grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That we might thus be justified. | 4 It is the pow’r of God to save
From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith which firmly clings
To all the treasures which it brings. |
| 2 It sets the Lamb before our eyes,
Who made the atoning sacrifice,
And calls the souls with guilt oppressed
To come and find eternal rest. | 5 It bears to all the tidings glad
And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The weary, burdened souls it cheers
And banishes their guilty fears. |
| 3 It brings the Savior’s righteousness
To robe our souls in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release
And gives the troubled conscience peace. | 6 May we in faith its message learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord, our righteousness. |

Text: Public domain

Communion Blessing

- P** The true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Thank the Lord (*sung*)

LSB 164

- C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev’ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

#655

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.</p> <p>2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;</p> | <p>Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.</p> <p>3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Public domain

Postlude

“Postlude in E”

J. Kuhnau



Organist: Ruth Sievers

Choir: Directed by Ruth Sievers

Lector: Sunday: Audrey Mitchell

Altar Care: Sunday: Denise Murray; Wednesday: Sandy Barry

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway,
 a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.



Announcements & Notes:

If You brought your commitment form for 2024, there’s a green box on the table in the narthex.

A New Bible Study on Martin Luther begins this Sunday! This is an excellent video-based study produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Grab a cup of coffee and something to eat and join us!

***Thursday Evening Bible Study** is currently taking a break, but will be returning soon. Stay tuned!*

***Our Commemoration of All Saints’ Day** is next Sunday, a day set aside to thank God for the life and faith of those who have departed in the true faith.*

***Faith in Action’s Food Pantry** reminds us that Thanksgiving is almost here! If you’d like to help with donations to the pantry, there’s a flyer on the table in the narthex and on the counters that details what they need to prepare for Thanksgiving bags for families in need.*

***Wednesday Evening Communion Services** are held in the Sanctuary beginning at 6pm.*

***Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, November 5th!** Remember to set your clocks back one hour so you don’t arrive early for church ☺*

***Remembering our homebound friends** is a caring ministry of St. Paul meant to help us stay in touch with our members who aren’t able to be with us for worship. Please remember them in your prayers. You may also like to send a note or a card. This week our homebound friend is Carol Miller, 13500 Pawnee Road, Orland Park, IL 60462.*

Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family

George Oberg
Rev. George Mrochen
Rich & Jan Przybycien
Rev. Paul and Judy Anderson
Sue & Bill Volk
Arthur Gerth
Ingrid Lesko
Jan Briede
Roy Hodgeman
Katherine Hice
Kurt Seehofer
Flora Jones
Graham Jackson
Kevin Hickey
Gloria Meyer
Elaine Lebron
Melva Smith
Delores Stegemann
Carol Small
Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski
Beverly Sellers
Betty Beegle
Warren Miller
Delphine Cherry
Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank
Betty Kruckow
Herta Iversen
Loretta Frank
George Dodaro, Sr.
Barbara Prendergast
Nancy Bundley

Rosa Richardson
Carl Hoppe

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Roberta & Carlos Owens
Roy Strassner
Dorothy Kroll
Emily Feehan
LeRoy Bitner
Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta
Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow
Janet Trierweiler
Vicki Warren
Rhonda Scott
Michelle Mitchell
Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi
Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher
The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross
Louise Hrynkow
Gloria Folsom
Mary Beth Pasqua
Shirley Fairchild
Simeon Hoppe
Ron Lunt
Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath
Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres

Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo
Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.
Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter
Fred Raddatz
Allyson Seehofer
Selma Carmichael
Bernadette & Rich Trusk
Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson
Guillermo Ramirez
Paul Noffke
Vern Howe
Pam Brown
Shawn Harland
Ann Herold
Barb Potter
Wayne Volk
Lance Barrientos
Linda Shuman
Doris Potts
Doreen Holford
Judy Collins
Luke Pajowski
Phyllis Hicks
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.
Monica Iversen
Cathy Becker
Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel
Carol Loecherbach
Miguel Hernandez
Charley Heitz

Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel
Frank Cogliase
Gene Wawrzynkowski
Kimberly Rooney
Helena Hoffman
Evelyn & Ron Konieski
Audrey Metes
Richard DeSaga
Ken Wenten
Margaret Lundgreen
Julie King
Sharon Bryant
Anika Seger
Monica Kato
Brian Anderson
Herb Kleeman
Debra Kleeman
Nora Beth Will DeMottes
Sarah Skelton
Barbara Apt
Bob & Gloria Freeman
Carrie Aspan
Lisa Anglin
Devon Apt
Tristan Ferry
LaNell Mauler Koenig
Todd, Sofia & Grace Lynam
Hillary Pittelko
Marge Schmidt
Sue Berg
The Kruski Family
Carol Jean McPhillips

We pray for those who grieve:

For Cathy Gleason and family and friends on the death of her husband, Stan Wirtschoreck, called home to be forever with our Lord on Sunday October 22. Visitation for Stan is tomorrow, October 30th from 4-8pm at Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home 95th and Central in Oak Lawn. The funeral is Tuesday, October 31st at St. Paul at 11am with an hour visitation prior to the service.

Special Prayers:

For Jess Lilja, John & Sue's daughter, traveling to Tunisia on a mission trip with her church group.

We also give thanks with Sandy Barry for God's gracious answer to prayers and His abundant blessings.

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