



# SERVICE OF THE WORD

REFORMATION SUNDAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

☒ Bishop ☒ Assisting Minister ☒ All

## GATHERING

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### *Confession and Forgiveness*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

☒ In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ Amen.

☒ Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☒ Amen.

☒ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

☒ 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 neighbors 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.

☒ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ Amen.



*Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.*  
 1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.  
 2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.  
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.



*Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.*  
 It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.  
 Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.  
 Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

*Refrain*

*Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.*  
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



*Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.*  
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

- 4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,  
 nor rootless liberty;  
 turn disquiet to contentment,  
 doubt into certainty. *Refrain*
- 5 Keep us fervent in our witness,  
 unswayed by earth's allure.  
 Ever grant us zealous fitness,  
 which you alone assure. *Refrain*

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NJOOKWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila

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*Greeting & Prayer of the Day*

- ☒ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☒ And also with you.

**B** Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

**B** 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.

## HEARING THE WORD

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*First Reading*

*Romans 3:19-28*

**A** A reading from Paul's letter to the 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.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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## Gospel

*John 8:31-36*

☒ The Holy Gospel according to John.

☑ **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."

☒ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

*The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop  
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA*



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

### Creed

**A** Let us confess our baptismal faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**C** 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*

- Ⓐ With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.
- Ⓐ Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Sustain our bishops, Elizabeth and Bill, all pastors, deacons and lay leaders in our commitment to being a reforming church. Lord, in your mercy,  
Ⓒ **hear our prayer.**
- Ⓐ As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind especially the wildfires in the west and the hurricanes in the south. Lord, in your mercy,  
Ⓒ **hear our prayer.**
- Ⓐ Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,  
Ⓒ **hear our prayer.**
- Ⓐ Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill especially those we name aloud, in silence or online, using the hashtag #demdprays.  
*A brief silence.*  
Lord, in your mercy,  
Ⓒ **hear our prayer.**

**A** In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**A** You call your people to honor those in authority. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**A** Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

**G** hear our prayer.

**A** 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.

**G** Amen.

### *Lord's Prayer*

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

**G** **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.**

*Thanksgiving for the Word*

☒ Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

☒ **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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*Blessing*

☒ Go forth into the world be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; cry out for justice; honor all people; love and serve the Lord: May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

☒ **Amen.**



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
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*Dismissal*

**A** Go in peace, continue the reformation of the church and world.

**G** Thanks be to God.

# WORSHIP LEADERS

Bishop

The Rev. Bill Gohl  
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

Assisting Minister &  
Cantor

The Rev. Tamika Jancewicz, Associate Pastor  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ellicott City, MD

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