



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Reformation Sunday Observed
October 29, 2023 9:30am

**YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, READ THROUGH YOUR WORSHIP
FOLDER, AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**

E. DELPEREE.



"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Holy Scriptures or by evident reason-for I can believe neither pope nor councils alone, as it is clear that they have erred repeatedly and contradicted themselves-I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which is my basis; my conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. God help me. Amen." – Martin Luther's words spoken in 1521

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – Reformation is a day to remember and celebrate that the Church founded by Jesus Christ is a living entity. Through the centuries, God has shaped the Church and then reshaped it, again and again, so that every generation may experience the Gospel in language it can understand. Throughout these changes, God has preserved His Word and Sacraments. Like the Church, we as individuals are in the process of being shaped by God. We are the clay. God is the potter. And just as He created us and all things, so one day in Christ will we and all things be re-created, and all that is now misshapen or broken will be restored.

About Our Guest Preacher Today – Hesham grew up in a world of bitter animosity between Muslims and Christians, which he experienced personally in a physical attack when only about 7. By age 13 he was recruited by an extremist Muslim group and later fought against Christians in the 1975 war in Lebanon. He was preparing to become a Muslim Preacher (Imam) when a car accident laid him up for a year. In 1980, in his first semester in college, his brother was killed by Christian militia. Hicham's response was to study by day, and by night take out his revenge in attacks on Christians. However, hearing the Sermon on the Mount, in a course of cultural studies (in college), brought him to faith. Later, Hicham earned an M.A. in the history of the Arabs and did Ph.D studies in the history of Islam. Hicham finished his pastoral education at Concordia, Fort Wayne, IN, and is currently in the Ph. D program there. Hicham is ordained as an LCMS minister and is pastor of Salam Christian Fellowship. He also works as a missionary to the Muslims.

Preservice and Postlude Music *by Jennifer Kirk*

Welcome and Announcements

PLEASE RISE AND FACE THE CROSS AT THE REAR OF THE SANCTUARY

Invocation and Opening Sentences

Jeremiah 18:4, 6; Romans 3:20, 26; adapted

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P By works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight.

C God is the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

P Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.

C The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

P As You reshaped the Church at the time of Luther,

C reshape us in this generation, LORD, to love You with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves, all as a joyful response to Your first loving us.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



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 wins sal -
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



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

Confession and Absolution

Romans 3:23–24; 2 Corinthians 5:21

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
C **and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**

P God calls us to confess our sins. We observe a moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

A time of silence.

P God, You formed us in the womb, and You shape our lives to love and honor You and our neighbors.
C **Yet we are by nature sinful and separated from You. We sin against You in thoughts, words, and actions. For the sake of Jesus, who was tempted in every way as we are and yet without sin, we pray for Your forgiveness.**

P “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” Therefore, by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 34:1–2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

P I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O LORD,
C **and shall not be put to shame.**

P I will bless the LORD at all times;
C **His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

P My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
C **let the humble hear and be glad.**

P Come, O children, listen to me;
C **I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**

P The LORD redeems the life of His servants;
C **none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O LORD,
C **and shall not be put to shame.**

Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out 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: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76

Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944

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Tune: Public domain

First Reading

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.**

Psalm

Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

**¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Gradual

Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a

P Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised

C **in the city of our God!**

P Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,

C **consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,**

P that you may tell the next generation

C **that this is God, our God forever and ever.**

Epistle

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.**

This I Believe

1. Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Savior

***I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus***

2. Our judge and our defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high

***CHORUS: I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus***

BRIDGE (2x): I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus ***CHORUS***

Verse

Luke 12:32

P Alleluia.

C Alleluia.

P Fear not, little flock,

C **for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

P Alleluia.

C Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

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.

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

Sermon "Confessing Christ Crucified Sets You Free"

by Rev. Hesham Shehab, LC-MS Pastor and Missionary in Illinois (see Bio on page 2)

1. What would be the outcome to slavery to the law? (Any law)
2. What is a counterfeit Gospel?
3. How does Satan and his servants masquerade as ministers of righteousness?
4. Two things are necessary for the life of the Church, justification by Grace, and Christian liberty.

Special Offering for Missionary Work (*If you are giving a special offering to "Messiah for Muslims", please write that on an envelope and place in offering plate*)

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Thy Word Is a Lamp

REFRAIN: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.

And nothing will I fear
as long as You are near.

Please be near me to the end. **Refrain**

2. I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.

Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;

And I will love You to the end. **Refrain**

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Prayer of the Church

P Filled with God's grace, founded in faith, and nourished by the Word, let us offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their needs. For the Church, that we faithfully use our freedom in the Gospel to love and to serve both God and neighbor. Preserve the Church from discord and strife. Let the world see that we are Yours, O Lord, by our love for one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

MEN – For those entrusted to govern our nation, state, and local community: Guide them and help them to care justly and mercifully for all the people they serve. For the members of our armed forces, for victims of warfare and violence, and for our enemies, we pray that peace may prevail for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – Let us pray for those who are suffering, those we have named and those we name silently in our hearts. We pray that their pain and anxiety be relieved according to God's will. For those who mourn the death of loved ones, we pray that God calm their troubled hearts and give them peace to face the days ahead in the confidence that He will never forsake them. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

ALL – Let us pray for those who visit this congregation, that they may find here a hospitality that bears witness to the kingdom of heaven. For all who travel, we pray that they arrive safely at their destinations. For all the households of this congregation, grant that they be havens of peace and places where Christ is proclaimed and lived. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

MEN – Let us pray for this holy assembly, that together we use our Gospel freedom responsibly. By the Holy Spirit, grant that we all undergo ongoing reformation of our hearts and minds and in the proper stewardship of our time, talents, and money, continuing to be faithful partners in ministry. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – Let us give thanks for those who have gone before us and are with the Lord, especially Martin Luther and all reformers of the Church. Sustain us in this earthly journey so that, trusting in the promises of Jesus, we, too, will know the joy of all those who have died in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, hear these prayers of Your faithful people. By Your grace, grant us those things You see that we need for the sake of our Redeemer and Lord, Jesus Christ.

G **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ 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.

The Church's One Foundation



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

→ Over

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.
- G** Amen.

**PLEASE STAY FOR OUR “Ask the Pastor” in the
Adult Ed. Room, entered in from the sanctuary (the door to the
right of the chancel). It begins soon after service today.
There some goodies to eat, too!**

Today in our “Ask the Pastor” class with Missionary Hesham and Pr. Rennie, we’ll talk about Luther’s thoughts about Muslims and Islam and also the Israel – Hamas Conflict... and *anything else* you’d like to ask the pastors!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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