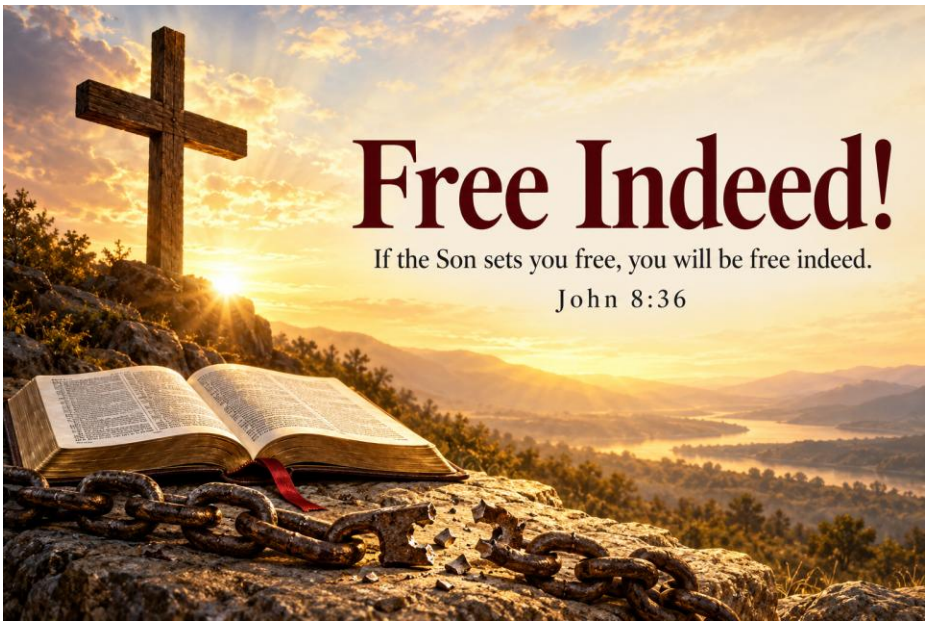
Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Reformation Sunday Observed
October 25, 2026 10am

As you enter the sanctuary, please use these moments for quiet prayer and preparation as we gather in the presence of the Lord to receive His gifts.



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – Holy Communion is normally celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and on other festival or special Sundays. We believe that Christ's true body and blood are received in the Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. Because Scripture also warns against receiving the Sacrament in an unworthy manner, communicants should repent of their sins, trust Christ's words and promises, and desire to forgive and live in Christian love toward others. Baptized Christians who share this confession and have examined themselves are welcome to commune with us. Please speak with Pastor Rennie if you have questions. The bread is distributed before the individual and common cups of wine. White nonalcoholic wine is located 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! We are grateful that you are worshiping with us. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Indicate on the card whether you would appreciate a call or other contact from Pastor Rennie.

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 – Have I been good enough? Sorry enough? Why don't I feel forgiven? These questions can trouble even lifelong Christians. On this Reformation Sunday, Jesus speaks His promise: "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). The Word that brought comfort to troubled consciences at the time of the Reformation still speaks to us today. Through His Law, God exposes our sin. Through His Gospel, He gives forgiveness and creates faith in Christ. His Word does more than give us information: the Holy Spirit renews our minds, reshapes our lives, and gives hope amid uncertainty. Through His Word and Sacraments, our living Savior gives us dependable promises to cling to… even when our feelings falter. Freed by His mercy, we go out to love and serve our neighbors.

Welcome and Announcements

*Congregation **please stand** and face the processional cross at the rear of the sanctuary.*

Invocation Opening Sentences

Psalm 119:89–90a; John 8:36; Hebrews 13:8

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

P Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.
C **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**

P If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
C **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



Confession and Absolution

Psalm 119:90b; John 8:34; Psalm 119:94a; John 8:31

P Lord, You have established the earth, and it stands fast.

C **All creation is sustained by Your Word and made to serve Your holy purposes.**

P And yet, we can ignore or defy Your Word and fail to pursue Your purposes.

C **Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin, and we seek Your freedom.**

P For our sins of thought, word, and deed, for our action and inaction, for our inborn sinfulness and failures of faith, we beg for mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C **I am Yours; save me.**

Pause for silent reflection

℗ Jesus Christ shed His blood for our sins. Through His death and resurrection, He has won our forgiveness and peace with God. 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.**

Introit

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

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.
I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
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.
I will speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
and shall not be put to shame.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

℗ The Lord be with you.

ℂ **And also with you.**

℗ Let us pray.
Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ℂ **Amen.**

First Reading

Revelation 14:6–7

6 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. 7 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.**

Psalm for Reformation

Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7

[1]God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
[2]Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
[3]though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

[4]There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
[5]God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
[6]The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
[7]The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

[8]Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
[9]He 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!"
[11]The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Epistle

Romans 3:19–28

[19]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. [20]For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

[21]But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— [22]the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [23]for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24]and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25]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. [26]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.

[27]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. [28]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.**

Thy Strong Word



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!

Verse

Luke 12:32

P Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

C **Alleluia, 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.

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

Sermon – "Free Indeed!" *John 8:31–36; Romans 3:19–28*

1. God's Word still reforms us.

- "Abide in My Word": remain, continue, make your home there.
- Through His Word, the Holy Spirit creates faith and renews our minds.
- Our assurance rests in God's promises, even when our feelings change.

2. Troubled consciences find rest in Christ.

- Luther's questions are still ours: Have I done enough? Have I been sorry enough?
- Our sorrow cannot pay for sin. Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient.
- We are justified (declared righteous before God) by His grace as a gift.

3. God's Law exposes our bondage.

- Religious heritage and church membership cannot excuse our sin.
- "Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."
- We cannot make ourselves worthy or bring ourselves from spiritual death to life.

4. The Son sets sinners free.

- Jesus lived the perfect life we have failed to live, bore our sins, and rose from the dead.
- He meets us in our need, calls us to repentance, forgives us, and gives new life.
- This is the good news we receive and share with our neighbors.

5. Christ gives us dependable promises.

- Faith is God's gift, resting on Jesus' saving work outside ourselves.
- Christ is present and at work through His preached Word.
- In Baptism and Holy Communion, He personally gives His gifts of grace.

6. His freedom transforms our lives and gives us hope.

- God's Word continues reforming how we see ourselves and our neighbors.
- Forgiven people learn to forgive, confess sin, and seek help.
- Our growth matters; the foundation of our assurance remains Jesus.

- Take this promise with you: Weak faith still has a strong Savior.

- Remain in His Word. Receive His gifts. His promises hold even when your feelings falter.

Nicene Creed

C **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.

Offering – ONLINE GIVING is 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.

Doxology

Prayer of the Church

Psalm 119:89–90

P Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

C **Your faithfulness endures to all generations.**

℗ And so we pray: Almighty and everlasting God, our refuge and strength, teach Your church not to fear but to trust Your unshakable promises, that faithful to Your Word, he might bring Your comfort to troubled hearts. Lord, in Your mercy, ℂ **hear our prayer.**

℗ Ever-living Lord, You have sent an eternal Gospel to be proclaimed to every nation and tribe and language and people. Raise up from among us faithful pastors, teachers, and missionaries who will proclaim the crucified and risen Christ as the only hope of sinners. Lord, in Your mercy,
ℂ **hear our prayer.**

℗ Holy Spirit, our Comforter, when nations rage and kingdoms totter, protect all citizens of the world from danger and disaster and make Your holy people agents of peace who pursue the common good. Lord, in Your mercy, ℂ **hear our prayer.**

℗ Lord Jesus Christ, truth incarnate, You ask Your people to abide in Your Word. Make us crave the nourishment of Scripture and build in us healthy habits and disciplines that put Your Holy Word central in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy, ℂ **hear our prayer.**

℗ Merciful Savior, comfort those who wonder whether they have been good enough, sorry enough, or strong enough in faith. Turn their eyes to Your cross and resurrection. Through Your Word and Sacraments, assure them of Your forgiveness, renew their minds, and give them hope amid uncertainty. Help this congregation welcome our neighbors and share Your saving Gospel with them. Lord, in Your mercy, ℂ **hear our prayer.**

℗ Abiding Savior, You proclaim freedom from sin. Deliver Your servants also from illness, injury, and infirmity. We lift up the sick and suffering among us, [*including . . .*]. Grant them comfort in Your presence and confidence in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy, ℂ **hear our prayer.**

℗ Faithful Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word, patient in suffering, bold in confession, and joyful in hope, until that day when the everlasting Gospel is heard in its fullness and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ℂ **Amen.**

Preface

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

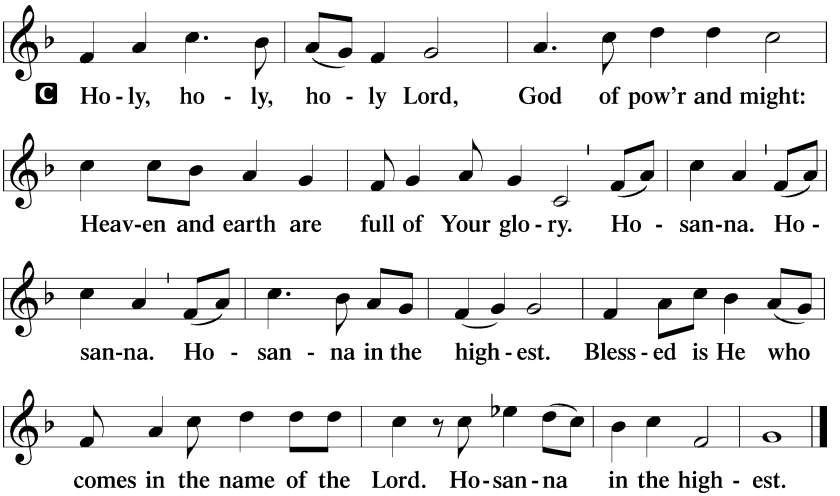
Proper Preface

℗ It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for You are our refuge and strength, whose unshakable Word makes glad the city of God.

For when every mouth was silenced and the whole world stood accountable before You, You revealed the righteousness of God apart from the Law, that we are justified by Your grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, His cross, and His resurrection.

In mercy, You have indeed set us free to abide in Your Son and in His Word, that we might remain children within Your house forever. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P We boast, O Lord our God, in nothing other than the redeeming work of Your Son, Jesus Christ, for the gift of justification that comes purely through His blood. As You gather us around His Table, prepare our hearts to receive that gift, that in partaking of His true body and true blood we might taste freedom from sin, guilt, and shame. In Gospel confidence, make us bold to stand as those who shall not be moved from the foundation of faith we have received through the redemption of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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

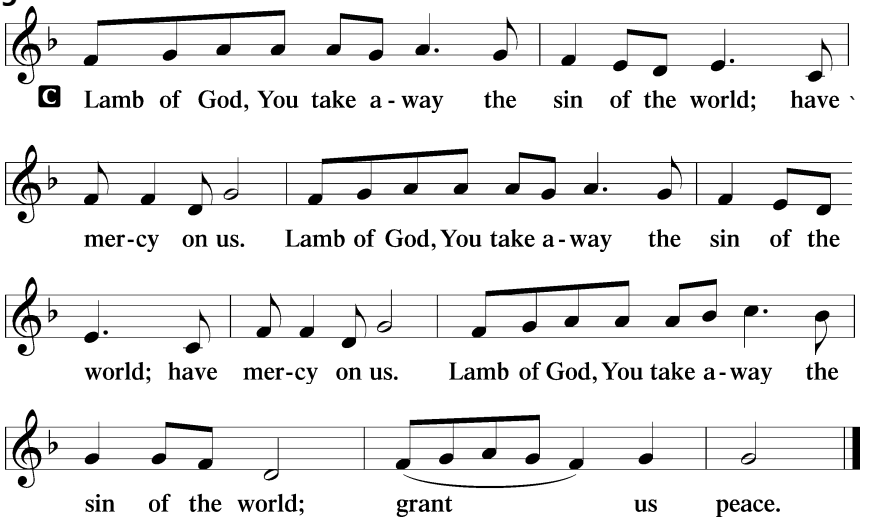
C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,**
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

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.

Pax Domini

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

Agnus Dei



Communion

Lamb of God

1. Your only Son, no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

<u>CHORUS:</u> Oh Lamb of God,
Sweet Lamb of God
I love the Holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious Blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

2. Your gift of Love they crucified
They laughed and scorned him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God

3. I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God ***<u>CHORUS</u>***

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Grace Flows Down

Amazing grace how sweet the sound ***It covers me***
Amazing love now flowing down ***It covers me***
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree ***It covers me***
Grace flows down and covers me ***And covers me***

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Most glorious Father, we thank You for feeding our faith through this Holy Supper, strengthening us to live as those who know and believe Your truth. Keep us in the true faith, that bound to Your truth we might joyfully declare the One who sets us free—namely, Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

Closing Sentences

John 8:36; Galatians 5:1; Romans 6:23; Galatians 5:13

P If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

C **For freedom Christ has set us free.**

P For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C **For freedom Christ has set us free.**

P Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

C **For freedom Christ has set us free.**

Mighty To Save

1. Ev'ryone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

***CHORUS:* Saviour**
He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

2. So Take me as you find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Ev'rything I believe in
Now I surrender ***CHORUS***

BRIDGE: Shine your light and
let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory
of the risen King
Jesus
Shine your light and
let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King

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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.**

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