

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
October 26, 2025**

Reformation Sunday

Welcome to the house of the living Lord!

If you are visiting with us today, we extend a warm welcome and invite you to return often. One of our core values at St. Paul's is to help people find a place where they belong. We have been doing it for 127 years and we pray that one of these worship services will bless you on your journey.

St. Paul's has chosen as its theme verse to guide us in 2025 – Psalm 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

It is the prayer of our congregation that we will connect people to the love of Jesus through our teaching, serving, caring, and telling.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Entrance Hymn Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

LSB 655

- 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.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
 For You are Lord of lords alone;
 Defend Your holy Church that we
 May sing Your praise eternally.
- 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.

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Psalm 46:1, 7, 10–11

- P God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
P “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.**

Confession and Absolution

Isaiah 35:10

- P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.
C **Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus’ sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.**
P The prophet Isaiah reminds us, “The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I 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

- P I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, O Lord, and shall not be put to shame.
C **I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

P My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.
C **Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**

P The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.
C **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, and shall not be put to shame.

Kyrie - sing

LSB 186

- C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Hymn of Praise/Choir Anthem

Choir will sing first, then congregation will join for the repeat (the congregation is encouraged to use their hymnals)

Hymn Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old

LSB 960

- 1 Isaiah, mighty seer in days of old,
The Lord of all in spirit did behold
High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,
With robes that filled the temple courts with light.
Above the throne were flaming seraphim;
Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.
With two they veiled their faces as was right,
With two they humbly hid their feet from sight,
And with the other two aloft they soared;
One to the other called and praised the Lord:
 "Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
 Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
 Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
 His glory fills the heavens and the earth!"
The beams and lintels trembled at the cry,
And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

Psalm

Psalm 46

- P God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
C **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.**
- 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;**
- P God will help her when morning dawns.
C **The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;**
- P 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.
- C **He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.**
- P “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.**

Salutation

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray.
O God of glory, we worship You who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water. We worship You who freely forgives us through the propitiation of Jesus' blood, which justifies us freely by Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.
- C **Amen.**

First Reading – Mitchell Whiteside

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.**

Epistle – Mitchell Whiteside

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.**

Verse

Luke 12:32

P Alleluia.

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

Children and Youth Message

Hymn of the Day **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

LSB 656

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.

- 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.
- 3 Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpow'r 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.
- 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.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

- C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord of hosts, we give You glory and thanks for being our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, especially on this Reformation festival. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Thank You for the gift of Your grace that alone sets us free through the blood of Your Son, Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Faithful and forgiving God, thank You for bringing us to faith in You. It is through this faith alone that we are saved. Grow us in Your grace and guide us by Your Spirit in living our faith daily. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, You have given us the Word of Life. Strengthen us by Your Word. Lead and guide us by Your truth. Give Your church on earth faithful pastors who preach and teach the Gospel in all its purity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus, You are the One who sets us free. In You alone our hope is found. You are our strength and our refuge. Remember all who face adversity of any kind, [*especially . . .*]. Comfort, strengthen, and heal them by Your Holy Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Preserve Your church, O Lord, and each of us as members of Christ's Body, that we may not surrender the true Gospel for any reason but be kept in this faith and fear throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage, until that day when we and all Your people shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward

You have prepared for us and all who have loved His appearing. To You alone be all glory, now and forever, for You rule and reign as one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Offering

Flowers on the altar are given in honor and glory of God by Linda Hyde for the faith of her grandparents, Andrew and Susan Hyde and Hildegard and Claude McBride to celebrate their birthdays.

Offertory - sing

LSB 192

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

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.**

Benediction

Psalms 46:1, 7, 10–11; Numbers 6:24–26

P God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
P “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.**

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.**

Hymn to Depart Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556 sts. 1–5

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
 With exultation springing,
 And with united heart and voice
 And holy rapture singing,
 Proclaim the wonders God has done,
 How His right arm the vict'ry won.
 What price our ransom cost Him!
- 2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
 Death brooded darkly o'er me.
 Sin was my torment night and day;
 In sin my mother bore me.
 But daily deeper still I fell;
 My life became a living hell,
 So firmly sin possessed me.
- 3 My own good works all came to naught,
 No grace or merit gaining;
 Free will against God's judgment fought,
 Dead to all good remaining.
 My fears increased till sheer despair
 Left only death to be my share;
 The pangs of hell I suffered.
- 4 But God had seen my wretched state
 Before the world's foundation,
 And mindful of His mercies great,
 He planned for my salvation.
 He turned to me a father's heart;
 He did not choose the easy part
 But gave His dearest treasure.
- 5 God said to His beloved Son:
 "It's time to have compassion.
 Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
 And bring to all salvation.
 From sin and sorrow set them free;
 Slay bitter death for them that they
 May live with You forever."

Sending

P Our Sunday worship is now ended,
C Our daily service now begins

P We now depart, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit,
C to joyfully serve our risen Lord, Amen.

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