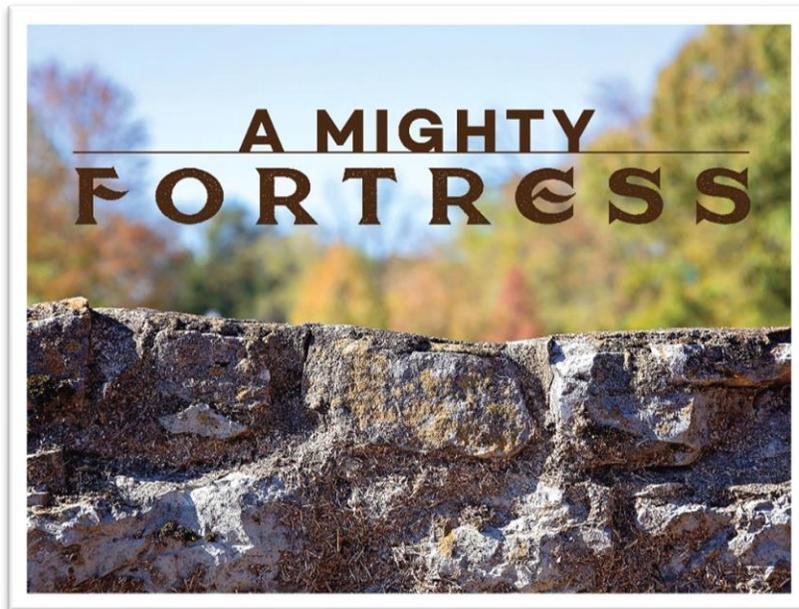


**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2020**

Thought: Wherever we find ourselves there is a word for us in Paul's letter to the Romans: God's gift of Jesus Christ puts us on new solid ground. He rescues us from the quicksand of sin. We live trusting in Christ so that neither despair nor pride overcome us. A Mighty Fortress is Our God, we sing which hopefully reminds us that God's loving arms continue to be around us, just as Jesus arms were nailed to the Cross for you and me.



Flowers on the altar given by Fred & Michelle Sarantakos
in honor of their First Wedding Anniversary

Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Call to Worship

A: While our God never changes,
C: our world does.

A: God may be the same today, yesterday, and forever,

C: but we are called to confront new challenges.

A: Today, as we come to worship,

**C: we also come to celebrate the Reformation
of the Church of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

First Plymouth Church – Lincoln Nebraska

<https://youtu.be/RFktMLdeFac>

“A Mighty Fortress” reading – Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. 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. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought the desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted in the earth!” The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

“Our Firm Foundation” reading – 1 Corinthians 3:10-17

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has been built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God’s temple

and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

How Firm a Foundation Hymn

from Reflect Amazing Grace

https://youtu.be/8_EjMrrW8CY

“Built Upon the Word” reading – Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus said, “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

“Our Forever City” reading – Revelation 21:9-27

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed – on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the

sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass. And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

I Can Only Imagine – Mercy Me

Great Christian Lyrics

<https://youtu.be/DU0MwNpRq6M>

Confession and Absolution

P: Without your Word, O God, our lives are built upon sand:

C: the sinking sand of selfishness, the foolishness of pride.

P: Forgive the arrogance that places ourselves above your Lordship.

C: Place us upon a firm foundation. Help us to seek, to know, to do your will.

A time for reflection

P: O Lord, as part of the Church of Jesus Christ we know that we are the body of Christ to carry on his ministry here on earth.

C: We know, too, that for a body to function properly all parts must work together. Send your Holy Spirit upon us that we may reach out in Christian love to all parts of the Body of Christ, that together we may work in unity for the coming of your kingdom. Amen.

P: We are saved by grace and forgiven because of God's love in Jesus our Lord.

A Mighty Fortress – Brass Fanfare

Occasional Brass

<https://youtu.be/540y95cBtHI>

Prayer of the Day

A: You have crafted a new covenant, O God, written not on tablets of stone,

C: but upon the chambers of the human heart,

A: scrawled not in ink,

C: but in blood – the blood of your Son.

A: Keep us steadfast in your covenant.

C Keep us steadfast in your Word.

A: Only then will we be defended against every temptation.

C: Only then will your people be at peace.

A: Through Jesus Christ, our Rock and Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now,

C: and forever. Amen.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle reading – 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 silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ 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.

²¹ But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ 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; ²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – John 8:31-36

https://youtu.be/_VfBa-NHjhA

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ 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’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

<https://youtu.be/1UisJotjQsc>

Homily – Pastor Barnes: “God IS OUR Refuge and STRENGTH”

<https://youtu.be/L5Q1i2hg9gM>

Music – A Mighty Fortress (Bob Jones University)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB5XvHq8UHk>

Testimony of Faith:

We believe in God the Creator, who created and is creating everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us; each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God.

We believe in God the Christ, who saved and is saving everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us: each of us; unique, individual and beloved of the Christ.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who guided and is guiding everything: the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us; each of us, unique, individual and beloved of the Spirit.

We believe that this one God in three persons, is present among us, working directly in our lives and the lives of all who are born into this world, striving to bring us back into harmony with all creation and with God: forgiving, healing, touching everyone, never rejecting any who willingly receive this freely offered gift of love and grace and eternal life.

Prayers of Intercession for Reformation

P: With confidence in God’s grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill. Lord, in your mercy,

C: 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,

C: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Offering/Offertory Prayer

A: O heavenly Father, you have anointed your Son to be our King.

C: You have placed a crown of glory upon his head.

A: We pay him homage with these gifts.

C: Accept them for the good of your kingdom.

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

Invitation to Communion

P: God prepares the table for us, offering us a feast of abundant love.

C: Our cups overflow with the bounty of grace, for our Shepherd knows us as no one else can – restoring our souls, healing our brokenness, nourishing us with bread and cup for the life of ministry.

Words of Institution

The 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.**

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word – Koine

<https://youtu.be/tel3ayeBxX0>

P: Come to the table and feast with the Shepherd!

Distribution Music

As We Gather at Your Table

OCP Session Choir

<https://youtu.be/3WlqV63-ZxA>

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

First Plymouth Church – Lincoln Nebraska

<https://youtu.be/MIPIyM2Qz4k>

Post Communion Prayer

A: You have made us free, O Christ...

C: ...and we are free, indeed.

A: Sustain us by this heavenly meal.

C: Sustain us for battle.

A: And fill us with hope –

C: the hope that sees the spoils of battle you have promised us.

A: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction – Numbers 6

Dismissal

A: Living by the Word and facing the world, we go to serve.

C: Thanks be to God

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston

