

Reformation – “The Word Shall Stand Forever”
October 31, 2021



Thought: *Reformation reminds us that though all else passes away, the Word of the Lord shall stand forever. It is the firm foundation on which our faith is grounded. It is the solid message that says that we are saved by grace through the suffering death and resurrection of Jesus. Let the Scripture, sermon and songs of this service speak clearly to you about what God has to say to us of his love.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:8

Invocation and Call to Worship

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

A: Let the grass wither.

C: And the flowers fade.

A: But the Word of the Lord

C: will stand forever.

A: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God.

C: And the Word was God.

A: In him was life.

C: and the life was the light of people.

A: The light shines in the darkness.

C: and the darkness has not overcome it.

<https://youtu.be/iHIGardD4S4>

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word – Koine

Hymn: Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word – 517

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.

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.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: O Word of Life and Light in darkness,

C: forgive us for not always listening to your Word and not always walking in your Light.

P: We listen to the lies of the devil and the world.

C: We listen to ourselves and our own selfish ambition.

P: We walk in the darkness of false prophets and poor direction.

C: We walk in the darkness of our sins and linger in their evil ways.

P: For all our dark thoughts and wayward acts,

C: have mercy on us, O Word of Life and Light of Life!

A time of silence and reflection

P: Let the words of forgiveness from our God fill our ears, and let the Light of the love of Christ shine upon us. All your sins are

forgiven in the name of the Word Made Flesh who stands forever for us.

C: Let us live in the light of his love and by the sound of his voice. Amen.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship, and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen!

Hymn of Praise

<https://youtu.be/wNbfVca1JRw>

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil – Erin Jogue

Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age.

C: 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. Amen.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34
Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

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,^[a] 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.**

Psalm 46

The Lord of host is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present^[a] help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**
- ³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- 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 the city;^[b] it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ **The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.**
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought 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 shields with fire.

**¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”**

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

Epistle reading - Romans 3:19-28

The gift of grace liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

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^[a] 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^[b] 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/zxTm36qOByw>

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**
Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his Word.

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 of God
<https://youtu.be/dsZ-koObCsA>

Sermon
“Begun but not Done - Living in the Word”
<https://youtu.be/OMS6kQmt4MA>

<https://youtu.be/DqnKnU5yKIU>

Blessed Jesus at Your Word – FAPC in NYC

Hymn of the Day – Blessed Jesus at Your Word – 520

Blessed Jesus, at your Word we are gathered all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear you. By your gospel pure and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded, Till your Spirit breaks our night with your beams of truth unclouded. You alone to God can win us; you must work all good within us.

Glorious Lord, yourself impart; Light of Light, from God proceeding, Open lips and ears and heart; help us by your Spirit's leading. Hear the cry your church now raises; Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

The First Petition of the Lord's Prayer – Luther's Explanation

ALL: Hallowed by your name.

A: What does this mean?

C: God's name certainly is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that we may keep it holy.

A: When does this happen?

C: God's name is hallowed whenever his Word is taught in its truth and purity and we as children of God live in harmony with it. Help us to do this, heavenly Father!

But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to the Word of God dishonors God's name among us. Keep us from doing this, heavenly Father!

Prayers of Intercession – Be our rock of refuge

P: O Lord who stands firm for us, keep us strong in our faith and help us to trust you boldly in our thoughts, words and deeds. May we never waver in our connection to your Word or stray from your way for us. O sure foundation,

C: Be our rock of refuge.

A: O Lord who clings tightly to the truth, thank you for the life of Martin Luther and all the reformers who opened the path to uncovering the truth of our salvation won for us solely by Jesus through his death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. Give us the confidence to share the Good News of that salvation with others that they might know Jesus as the Word-Made-Flesh and Redeemer of all. O sure foundation,

C: Be our rock of refuge.

A: O Lord who is confident against all foes, strengthen us in our battles with sin and Satan and give us the support we need to remain steady from all attacks against us and against you. With you at our right hand, we shall not be moved. O sure foundation,

C: Be our rock of refuge.

A: O Lord who protects us from every danger, be our constant source of comfort and blessing when we find ourselves afraid or

uncertain of what lies before us * (*prayer concerns for sick, hurting, death*) *. O sure foundation,

C: Be our rock of refuge.

A: O Lord who gives us his Holy Scriptures to guide us in his way, speak to us through your Word to provide us with the help we need to make it through every twist and turn of any given day. O sure foundation,

C: Be our rock of refuge.

P: O Lord who has gone to prepare a place for us in heaven, ready our hearts and minds for the time that is to come, when we will sing your praises with all your saints in light. O sure foundation,

C: Be our rock of refuge. Amen.

Offering – a time of silence and prayer

Offertory Prayer

A: Heavenly Father, your Son has set us free!

C: We are free indeed!

A: Freely we bring these gifts.

C: Freely we offer our praise

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving – “The Grace of God”
(Amazing Grace)

P: The Bible Says, “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us:

C: Thank you, O Lord, for sending us your Son and saving us from sin.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see!

P: The Bible says, “The Lord is faithful to all his promises”

C: Thank you, O Lord for gracing us with your promise to protect us.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

P: The Bible says, “The Lord will watch over your coming and your going, both now and forevermore.

C: Thank you, O Lord for gracing us with your presence always.

Through many dangers, toils, ‘n and snares I have already come; His grace has brought me safe so far, his grace will see me home.

P: The Bible says, “Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light.”

C: Thank you, O Lord, for gracing us with the gift of life through your Son.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail and mortal life shall cease, Amazing grace shall then prevail in heaven's joy and peace.

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

The Words of Institution

Distribution

Communion Music – Lillian Pinkston

OR

<https://youtu.be/JHnrF3rPZQ8>

The King of Love My Shepherd Is – Henry Baker

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: You came to us, O Christ, O Word.

C: You come to us, here and now.

A: Now come with us, we pray. Guide us in your Word.

C: Then we will know the truth. Then it will set us free.

A: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word shall stand forever. The Lord of everlasting power bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord lift his glory upon you and give you peace.

C: Thanks be to God!

<https://youtu.be/zhMFifugZ8o>

A Mighty Fortress is Our God – T4G live

Sending Hymn – “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” 504

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

Dismissal

A: The Word has set us free!

C: We go to share the good news.

Postlude



