



GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH

Reformation Sunday

9:00 & 11:15 am November 1, 2020



ROCK OF AGES

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to our guests!

- We pray that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace and joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.
- Our mission is to share the rock-solid hope of Jesus with today's world through timeless truths found in the Holy Scriptures.
- Large print service folders and hearing assistance devices are available.
- Restrooms are located at the far ends of the entry area.
- Thank you for respecting your fellow worshippers by practicing social distancing. Volunteers are sanitizing the shared touch points between services.
- Children's activity bags, quiet toys, and a changing table are available from the nursery in entry area.
- We are part of a world-wide Christian body and support the gospel ministry of the WELS. We'd love to share more with you. Contact our pastor today. You can also visit wels.net



Festival of the Reformation

On October 31, 1517, the eve of All Saint's Day, Dr. Luther posted his *95 Theses* on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Saxony, Germany. These 95 Latin statements included challenges of the sale of indulgences (forgiveness) and the absolute authority of the pope, and were intended to be discussed and debated by university scholars. However, they were soon translated into German, published, and disseminated throughout Germany and much of Europe. Luther's desire to debate the issues was the spark that set off the Reformation of the church.



During the years of turmoil that followed, Luther continued to speak out on these matters and on many other doctrinal errors of the Roman Catholic Church. He desired only to reform the unscriptural teachings and practices of Catholicism. When Pope Leo X could no longer tolerate Luther's challenging questions based Biblical teachings, he excommunicated Luther. Charles V, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, declared Luther an outlaw. Nevertheless, thousands of congregations of Christians (primarily in northern Europe) chose to follow Luther's teachings rather than the Pope's. Luther called his followers "evangelicals," but the Papists called them "Lutherans"—a name we gladly and proudly bear even today.

The confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church began to take form. Martin Luther humbly and ably provided leadership and guidance. Luther introduced a non-extremist reformation. He stripped away from the worship service only those parts of the Roman Catholic mass which were unscriptural. Traditional clerical vestments, candles, crucifix, statues, stained glass, etc. were retained because they served the church well. He replaced the use of Latin with the native language of the people. He introduced congregational participation and used the worship services to teach the people about God's Word. Every action of the clergy and even the architecture of the church were to serve as tools for teaching the people.

While it is hoped that today's service will be an interesting and unique experience, it is even more our prayer that you will find in it and through it the blessing of our Lord.



Greeting

Commemoration

Luther's 1519 Experience

Luther's account of his "tower experience" prefaced the Latin edition of his works published in 1545. The translation is from E.C. Schwiebert's Luther and His Times, pages 285-286.

In the meantime in the same year (1519) I had begun again to lecture on the Psalter, believing that with my classroom experience in lecturing on the Psalms and the Letters of Paul to the Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews, I was now better prepared.

The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. —Psalm

98:2-3

All the while I was absorbed with the passionate desire to get better acquainted with the author of Romans. Not that I did not succeed, as I had resolved, in penetrating more deeply into the subject in my investigation, but I stumbled over the words concerning "the righteousness of God revealed in the gospel." For the concept of God's righteousness was repulsive to me, as I was accustomed to interpret it according to scholastic philosophy, namely as the "formal or active" righteousness, in which God proves himself righteous in that he punishes the sinner as an unrighteous person.

In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness; turn your ear to me and save me.

—Psalm 31:1

After days and nights of wrestling with the problem, God finally took pity on me, so that I was able to comprehend the inner connection between the two expressions, "the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel" and "the just shall live by faith."

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. —Romans 3:21-22

Then I began to comprehend the righteousness of God through which the righteous are saved by God's grace, namely, through faith; that the righteousness of God which is revealed through the gospel was to be understood in a passive sense in which God through mercy justifies man by faith, as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." Now I felt exactly as though I had been born again, and I believed that I had entered Paradise through widely opened doors.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. -2 Corinthians 5:21

I then went through the Holy Scriptures as far as I could recall them from memory, and I found in other parts the same sense: the "work of God" is that which he works in us, the "strength of God" is that through which he makes us strong, the "wisdom of God" that through which he makes us wise, and so the "power of God," the "blessing of God," and the "honor of God" are likewise to be interpreted.

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." -1 Corinthians 1:30-31

As violently as I had formerly hated the expression "the righteousness of God," so I was now as violently compelled to embrace the new conception of grace and, thus, for me, the expression of the apostle really opened the gates of paradise.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. -2 Timothy 4:8

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession & Absolution

You who are loved by the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called 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.

Amen.

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Christian Worship 200

**A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That has us now o'er taken.
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.**

**With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord. And there's no other God;
He holds the field forever.**

**Though devils al 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.**

**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 do what they will –
Hate, steal, hurt, or kill --
Though all may be gone,
Our victory is won;
The kingdom's ours forever!**



Luther's Bible translation was first published 1522, completed in 1534. He held Scripture as the highest authority and believed everyone should be able to read it in their own native language.

"One little word..."
Scripture alone
became a mantra of
the Reformation.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

First Lesson

Daniel 6:10-12,16-23

*The kingdom of God is greater than
the kingdom of this world which opposes him.*

Now, when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. It had windows on its upper story that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day he would get on his knees and pray and offer praise before his God. He continued to do that, just as he had been doing before this. ¹¹Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

¹²They then went and asked the king about the decree. "Your Majesty, did you not sign a decree that anyone who prays to any god or person for thirty days except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the den of lions?"

The king answered, "Indeed I did. The order is established as a law of the Medes and the Persians that cannot be revoked." ¹⁶Then the king gave the order, and

Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you." ¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the pit. The king sealed it with his signet ring and the signet rings of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel's situation. ¹⁸Then the king went to his palace. He spent the night without food, and no entertainment was brought before him. But he could not sleep.

¹⁹At dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰As he came near the pit, he cried out in a fearful voice. The king said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God, whom you serve continually, able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹Then Daniel spoke with the king. "Your Majesty, may you live forever! ²²My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions. They have not hurt me because he found me innocent in his presence. Also before you, Your Majesty, I have committed no crime."

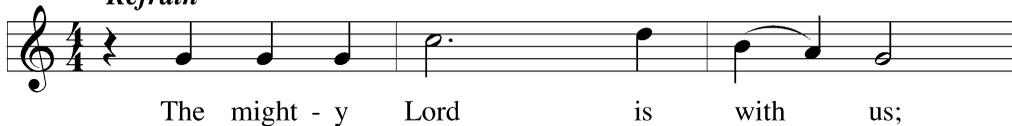
²³Then the king was very glad and said that Daniel should be brought up from the pit. So Daniel was brought up from the pit, and he was unharmed because he trusted in his God.

Psalm of the Day

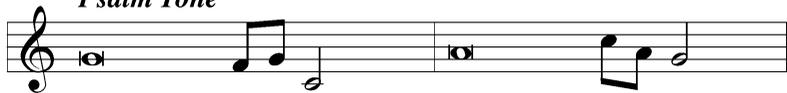
Psalm 46

Christian Worship Supplement

Refrain



Psalm Tone



Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way

and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam

and the mountains quake with their surging. **Refrain**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;

God will help her at break of day.

“Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

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. **Refrain**

Second Lesson

2 Timothy 4:9-18

Despite opposition from the world and false teachers, the gospel is spread.

Make every effort to come to me quickly, ¹⁰for Demas, because he loved this present world, has forsaken me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is useful to me for ministry. ¹²I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³When you come, bring the cloak I left in Troas with Carpus, and the scrolls, especially the parchments.

¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will pay him back for what he did. ¹⁵You be on your guard against him also, because he vehemently opposed our message. ¹⁶At my first hearing, no one came to my defense, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles would hear it, and I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Verse of the Day

John 8:31-32

Sung by all; Christian Worship 340:4

♪ **He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the prisoner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.**

Gospel

Matthew 10:16-23

Jesus warns his disciples of great opposition but promises great provision.

Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

²¹“Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. ²³And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?
Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

**Yes, I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, 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.**

Will you continue steadfast in the faith into which you were baptized, and be diligent in the use of the means of grace? Will you pray continually for all the saints?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting.

Amen.

Hymn of the Day

How Firm A Foundation
Christian Worship Supplement 768

**♪ How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

**2. "Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be not dismayed;
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**3. "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes.**

That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

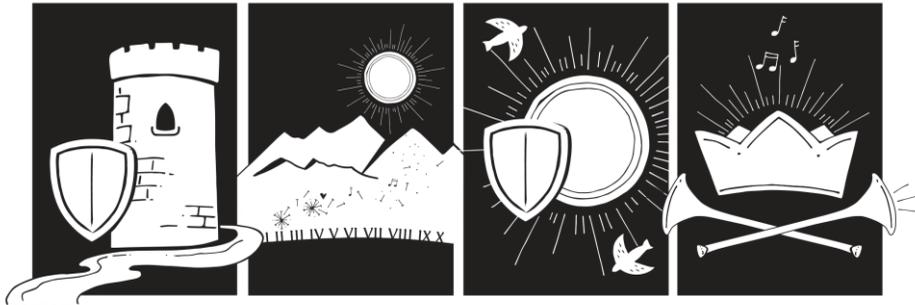
4. "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
My grace all-sufficient shall be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

5. "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love,
And then, when gray hair shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still on my shoulders be borne."

Sermon

Psalm 46

PSALMS



FOR THE SEASON OF END TIMES

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Nov 1 | Reformation – Psalm 46 |
| Nov 8 | Last Judgment – Psalm 90 |
| Nov 15 | Saints Triumphant – Psalm 84 |
| Nov 22 | Christ the King – Psalm 47 |

Hymn of Response

The Sola Song

Based on the "solas" of the Reformation

Scripture is the truth alone
Scripture is the truth alone
Not man's teachings or traditions
Scripture is the truth alone

"Sola Scriptura" - **Scripture Alone**
-sung by the presiding minister

We are saved by Christ alone
We are saved by Christ alone
Jesus made a full atonement
We are saved by Christ alone

"Solus Christus" - **Christ Alone**
-sung by all the men

Not by works but grace alone
Not by works but grace alone
We will enter life eternal
Not by works but grace alone

"Sola Gratia" - **Grace Alone**

Justified through faith alone
Justified through faith alone
God declares us to be righteous
Justified through faith alone

"Sola Fide" - **Faith Alone**

Glory be to God alone
Glory be to God alone
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Glory be to God alone

"Soli Deo Gloria" - **Glory to God Alone**

Offerings Gathered

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Our offerings go to support the gospel ministry of our congregation and our national church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Today you may place your offering on the table by the entryway as you enter or exit.

Prayer of the Church

For Reformation Sunday

Eternal Father, gracious Lord, you responded to the first sin by promising to free mankind from slavery to Satan. Throughout history you preserved a remnant of faithful people who opposed Satan's work and trusted in the promised Messiah. You used your servant Martin Luther to restore the pure preaching of the gospel of salvation by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ. You mercifully guided our Wisconsin Synod to proclaim your saving truth in the face of false doctrine and physical hardship. Now graciously defend us from heresy, from pride, and from fear. Oppose those who would remove Christ from his throne as Ruler over your Church and your world.

**♪ Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would seek to overthrow your Son
And to destroy what he has done.**

Dearest Jesus, God from eternity, when you entered this world to become one of us, you humbled yourself to live under law and to die an accursed death as the Substitute for every sinner. You crushed the power of Satan forever and by your resurrection gave proof that we too shall rise from the sleep of death. Now, as our ascended Lord, you rule over all things. Graciously put an end to wars, inequity and injustice which hinder your kingdom's advance. Shelter us, your chosen brothers and sisters, as we fulfill our priestly duties of worship and praise. According to your gracious promise give us life like yours that we may adore you forever.

**♪ Lord Jesus Christ, your power make known,
For you are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your Christendom that we
May sing your praise eternally.**

Holy Spirit, divine Counselor, at Pentecost you filled the disciples' hearts with courage and their tongues with a message of repentance and faith, a message of forgiveness and hope. Fill people everywhere with the knowledge of the truth. Mercifully lead us ever to repent of our sins and to cling to Jesus as our only Savior. Grant your people to be of one mind, and unite them in their

confession of the truth you have revealed. Bless all our attempts to express this fellowship on earth in love, forgiveness and encouragement. Be with all who are ill, lonely or grieving. Especially when our hearts are troubled or when our remaining days are few, remind us of your Baptismal promise, the gracious water of life that granted us a second birth for eternity.

♪ **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.**

Lord God, our hearts are moved to endless praise as we review hundreds of years of your love. You gave ministers as gifts to your Church. You sent reformers and men of vision to call your people closer to you. For over 160 years you have blessed our synod through your Word and Sacraments. Be with the leaders of our church--synod, district, congregations and schools--and with all its members, so that we diligently proclaim the Gospel of truth. Keep us faithful to the teaching of Holy Scripture, as stated in the Lutheran Confessions, that all who walk together in our synodical flock may confess with Luther:

The kingdom's ours forever!

Teach us to pray for your kingdom each day:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

God's Word is Our Great Heritage

Sung to the same tune as "A Mighty Fortress"

♪ **God's Word is our great heritage And shall be ours forever.
To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief endeavor.
In life it guides our way; In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember with Prayer

- Please share your requests and thanksgiving.

Attendance

10/18 Sunday Worship: 60

10/18 Sunday Bible Class: 23

10/25 Sunday Worship: 58

Received in October \$11,754.32

Serving This Week

Flowers, Communion Setup: Grace Popelier
Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland; 4 For Christ
Presiding Minister: Tom Barthel
Ushers: *(sign-up in narthex)*

Voters' Meeting

The voters approved calling Sydney Peterson for the 2021 Making Music Program.

1st Responders Dinner

Thanks to all who helped this past Wednesday!

Acknowledgments

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"Psalm 46" music: © 2006 Kermit Moldenhauer

CALENDAR

rockofages-payson.com/calendar

Sunday, November 1 *Reformation Sunday*

9:00am Service

10:05am Bible Study

11:15am Service

Wednesday, November 4

9:00am Elders Meeting

2:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

6:00pm Midweek Bible Class

Thursday, November 5

9:00am Midweek Bible Class

Sunday, November 8 *Last Judgment*

9:00am Service with Lord's Supper

10:05am Bible Study

11:15am Service with Lord's Supper

Sunday Bible Class

Join us for "Ten Question, Ten Answers" starting today at 10:05am.



RockofAges-Payson.com

204 W. Airport Rd. Payson, AZ 85541 • Office: 928-

474-2098 • pastorbarthel@gmail.com

Pastor Tom Barthel • Mobile: 928-612-8463