

A CELEBRATION OF THE REFORMATION

October 28, 2023 – 6:00 PM

A combined Reformation Service

of various Christian Reformed Churches

in Classis Pacific Northwest and Classis North Cascades

****Most of tonight's service will proceed unannounced.**

WE ENTER INTO WORSHIP

(Led by Pastor John Knoester)

Prelude

* Opening Hymn of Praise: LUYH #776 v. 1-4

"A Mighty Fortress is our God"

v. 1 – Everyone

v. 2 – Women Only

v. 3 – Men Only

v. 4 - Everyone

ALL

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

WOMEN ONLY

2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

MEN ONLY

3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

ALL

4. That Word above all earthly powers—
no thanks to them—abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

Words: based on Psalm 46, Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1852,
P.D. CCLI #678905

* Welcome / Announcements

* Call to Worship/God's Greeting (Based on Psalm 150)

Leader: Praise the Lord.

Praise God in his sanctuary.

Praise him in his mighty heavens.

**People: Praise him for his acts of power;
praise for his surpassing greatness.**

Leader: Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,

**People: Praise him with tambourine and dancing,
praise him with the strings and flute,**

Leader: Praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.

**People: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of our help?

People: Our help is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

* Opening Hymn: LUYH #575 v. 1-4 *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul praise him, for he is your help and salvation!
Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters, draw near.
Join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things
is wondrously reigning,
sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper
your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriends you.
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D.; Music:
(LOBE DEN HERREN): Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665; desc. Craig S.
Lang (1891-1971) © Novello and Co., Ltd. Admin. G. Schirmer, Inc.; CCLI #678905

GRACE ALONE

(Led by Pastor Nick Rosas)

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,
² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Responsive Reading:

Leader: People of God, it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

People: Without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me, the perfect righteousness, and holiness of God.
(Heidelberg Catechism A 60)

Leader: Let us come before God confessing our sins and the need for his grace.

Prayer of Confession

Awesome and compassionate God,
you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy,
but we have not loved you.
You constantly call us, but we do not listen.
You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.
God of grace, as you come to us in mercy,
we repent in spirit and in truth,
admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Time of Silent Prayer

Sung Prayer: LUYH #659 v. 1-4 *“Nearer, Still Nearer”*

1. Nearer, still nearer, close to thy heart,
draw me, my Savior, so precious thou art.
Fold me, O fold me close to thy breast;
shelter me safe in that haven of rest,
shelter me safe in that haven of rest.
2. Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,
naught as an offering to Jesus, my King—
only my sinful, now contrite heart;
grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart,
grant me the cleansing thy blood doth impart.
3. Nearer, still nearer, Lord, to be thine,
sin with its follies I gladly resign,
all of its pleasures, pomp and its pride;
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified,
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified.

ACAPPELLA

4. Nearer, still nearer, while life shall last,
till safe in glory my anchor is cast;
through endless ages, ever to be
nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee,
nearer, my Savior, still nearer to thee.

Words and Music: Lelia N. Morris (1862-1929), P.D.; CCLI# 678905

Words of Assurance

Leader: What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.
Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes,
who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**People: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

—Romans 8:31-35, 37-39, NRSV

*Song of Response: *"His Mercy is More"* v. 1-3

1. What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more
2. What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more
3. What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Chorus

Praise the Lord His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

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FAITH ALONE (Led by Pastor Jon Westra)

* We Confess our Faith:

Leader: What is truth faith?

People: True faith is not only a knowledge and conviction that everything God reveals in His Word is true; it is also a deep-rooted assurance, created in my by the Holy Spirit through the gospel, that out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ, not only others, but I too, have had my sins forgiven, have been made forever right with God, and have been granted salvation.

(Heidelberg Catechism A. 21)

Leader: Why do you say that by faith alone you are right with God?

People: It is not because of any value my faith has that God is pleased with me. Only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me right with God. And I can receive this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than by faith alone.

(Heidelberg Catechism A 61)

* We Profess our Faith: Sing! #175 v. 1-3 *"I Believe in God Almighty"*

1. I believe in God Almighty,
Father of all things that be,
Maker of the earth, and heavens,
Keeper of the sky and sea.
I believe in God's Son, Jesus,
now for us both Lord and Christ,
of the Spirit and of Mary
born to bring abundant life.
2. I believe that Jesus suffered,
scourged and scorned and crucified,
taken from the cross, was buried-
True Life there had truly died.
I believe that on the third day
Christ was raised up from the grave,
then ascended to God's right hand.
He will come to judge and save.
3. I believe in God's own Spirit,
bonding all the saints within
one Church, catholic and holy,
where forgiveness frees from sin,
in the body's resurrection,
for the breaking of death's chain
gives the life that's everlasting.
This the faith that I have claimed.

*"I Believe in God Almighty"; Text: Sylvia Dunstan (based on the Apostles' Creed);
Music: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen: Text: © 1991,
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Offering Introduction – Pastor Jon Westra

*(Immediately following the introduction to the offering the Reformation Choir
is invited forward and the offering is received)*

Offering: Didachem Ministries

Offertory: *“Established in Faith”* - Reformation Sunday Choir

We have come together to serve within this place.
We are chosen people united by God’s grace.
Built upon the promise: In Christ we are restored.
Faith is our foundation and joy is our reward

Established in faith, living in love,
standing in truth, soaring above,
growing in joy, Christ over all, established in faith,
we follow God’s call.

Let us face the future, and joy in service find.
Let us be committed, with unity of mind.
Moving with the spirit, our lives are now unfurled,
Banners of God’s calling, lifted high before the world.

Established in faith, living in love,
standing in truth, soaring above,
growing in joy, Christ over all,
established in faith, we follow God’s call.

Established in faith, living in love,
standing in truth, soaring above,
growing in joy, Christ over all,
established in faith, established in faith,
we follow God’s call.
We follow God’s call.

SCRIPTURE ALONE

(Led by Doug Fakkema)

We Confess Our Faith: *(Belgic Confession Art. 2)*

Leader: What are the means by which we know God?

People: We know him by two means:

**First, by the creation, preservation,
and government of the universe ...**

**Second, he makes himself know to us more openly
by his holy and divine Word,
as much as we need in this life,
for his glory and for the salvation of his own.**

Leader: As we prepare to open God’s Word
let us ask for the Spirit’s guidance.

Prayer of Illumination:

Our Lord and our God,
now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit.
Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence.
Sharpen our minds that we may discern your truth.
Shape our wills that we may desire your ways.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

* Song of Preparation: LUYH #844 v. 1,2,3,5

“Lift Up Your Hearts Unto the Lord”

1. Lift up your hearts unto the Lord,
lift up your hearts unto the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
lift up your hearts unto the Lord!
2. In Christ the world has been redeemed,
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
in Christ the world has been redeemed.
3. His resurrection sets us free,
his resurrection sets us free.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
his resurrection sets us free.

ACAPELLA

5. Sing alleluia to the Lord,
Sing alleluia to the Lord.
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia;
Sing alleluia to the Lord.

Words: st. 1-4 from early Christian liturgy; st. 5 Linda Stassen, 1974, © 1974 Linda Stassen; Music: Linda Stassen, 1974; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986, © 1974, 1986 Linda Stassen; CCLI #678905

Introduction to our Reformation Sunday guest speaker

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22-26

Message: ***“What to Expect in the Storm”*** – Rev. Zachary King

Theme: Jesus is Lord over the storms that threaten our faith
and mission.

Prayer of Application

CHRIST ALONE

(Led by Pastor Rich DeRuiter)

Responsive Reading:

Leader: The angel said to Joseph, "Give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."
(Matt. 1:21)

**People: Jesus saves us from our sins.
Salvation cannot be found in anyone else;
it is futile to look for salvation elsewhere.**
(Heidelberg Catechism A 30)

Leader: Let us thank God for Jesus.

**People: We thank you, God, for Jesus.
We thank you that we have in Jesus
All that we need for our salvation.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #772 v. 1-4
"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

1. My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus:

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.

Chorus

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

Chorus

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

Chorus

Words: Edward Mote (1797-1874), Tune: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868),
Public Domain. CCLI# 678905

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY
(Led by Pastor Naji Umran)

* We Proclaim God's Grace

Leader: For it is by grace you have been saved,
through faith- and this not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God – not by works so that no one
can boast. (Eph. 2:8-9)

**People: For we are God's workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.**
(Eph. 2:10)

Leader: What then is the purpose of our lives?

People: To glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.
(Westminster Shorter Catechism A 1)

Leader: Let us, then, glorify God.

**All: Let us glorify God for Scripture, for grace, for faith,
for Jesus.**

* God's Blessing

* Closing Song: "All Glory Be to Christ" v. 1-3

1. Should nothing of our efforts stand,
no legacy survive;
unless the Lord does raise the house,
in vain its builders strive.
To you who boast tomorrow's gain,
tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

*All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
all glory be to Christ!*

2. His will be done, His kingdom come,
on earth as is above,
who is Himself our daily bread;
praise Him, the Lord of love.
Let living water satisfy
the thirsty without price;
we'll take a cup of kindness yet;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

3. When on the day the great I Am,
the faithful and the true,
the Lamb who was for sinners slain,
is making all things new.
Behold our God shall live with us
and be our steadfast light.
And we shall e're his people be;
all glory be to Christ.

Chorus

*All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
all glory be to Christ!*

Acapella

Chorus

*All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
all glory be to Christ!*

Words and Arrangement by Dustin Kensrue; Music: Traditional Scottish Folk
Tune © 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music (Admin. by Music Services,
Inc.); CCLI #678905

Postlude

In **1 Timothy 1:17** we read: “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever.” We welcome everyone and invite all to join in offering honor and glory to God. Worshiping with hearts and hands and voices, we can each experience inspiration today. After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Service Participants

**Readers: Pastor John Knoester, Pastor Nick Rosas,
Pastor Jon Westra, Pastor Doug Fakkema,
Pastor Rich DeRuiter, Pastor Naji Umran**

Minister of the Word: Rev. Zachary King

Choir Director: Joni Beezhold

Organist: Sylvia Van Zanten

Pianist: Joni Beezhold

Vocalists: Eliot Blom, Beth Boon, Greg Boon, Stan Boon

**Instrumentalists: Henry Van Zanten, Jr. and various members
of First CRC**

The Loop System is provided for those using hearing devices by using the telephone mode on your device. This is available beginning in row 5 on either side of the sanctuary.