

**ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

**7:45AM
& 10:45AM**

**OCTOBER
25, 2020**



Making the
Love of
Christ
Known

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Doug Meyer
Pastor Emeritus

Charlie Frekot
Intern

Prelude

Welcome /Announcements

Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

CHRIST YESTERDAY & TODAY



Confession of sin

In the first Epistle of John we read: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Merciful God, in baptism you have joined us to Christ in his death and resurrection, and you have united us with all who are baptized in Christ's name; but too often we fail to live as one people and to seek the unity of your church.

Lord have mercy

In baptism you have called the church to witness to Christ in all realms of life; but too often we do not seek to discern your will and to carry out your mission in the world.

Christ have mercy

In baptism you have sent us to serve all for whom Christ died; but too often we have ignored the suffering of the oppressed, the needs of the poor, the sorrow of those who are lonely and abandoned. Often, we have not been able to recognize your face in our neighbors.

Lord have mercy

Sisters and brothers: In baptism we were buried with Christ and raised to new life in him. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is drowned, and a new life has begun. God, the merciful, has shown mercy to us, grants his Holy Spirit in us to transform us into people who walk in the love of Christ. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

ELW 504



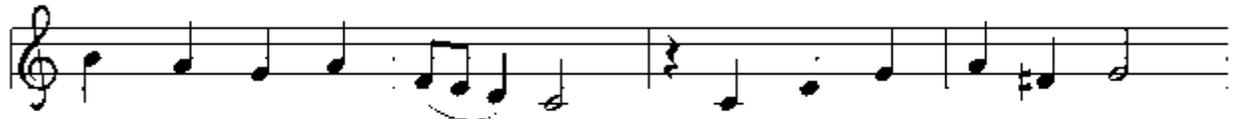
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight, On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious,
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!



Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, without your Spirit the church goes astray. Cleanse and renew us and fill us with your love, so that we can serve you according to your will. You call us to love one another as you have loved us. Open our hearts that we may honor the dignity of our sisters and brothers all the days of our life, rejoice with the joyful and offer hope and strength to the sorrowful. This we ask through Jesus Christ, your son and our Savior. **Amen**

Children's Sermon

Kid's Praise (10:45)

At this time children age 3 – grade 4 are now dismissed, at the parent's discretion, to the Octagon.

GOD
is our
REFUGE
&
STRENGTH,
an ever-present
HELP
in trouble.

P S A L M 4 6 : 1



Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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 reading is concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Psalm 46

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

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be
moved, and though the mountains shake in the
depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and 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.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the
shields with fire.

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

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



New Testament Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and the other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.



¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

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

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

The reading is concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

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

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



The gospel is concluded:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind



1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -

3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from

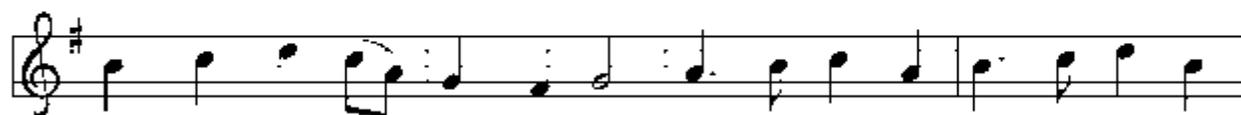
4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;

leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,

rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,

for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;

may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil:



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!

make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!

claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

Text: Herman G. Staempfle Jr., 1953-2007

Mus.: CWM RHOONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1942

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Apostles' Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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

Intercessory Prayer

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

Responses:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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. **Amen**



Offering–

*We give our offerings not to please God,
but to live in thanksgiving for all God's gifts.
Know that what you give is a response
to the word of hope that lives in you.*

Offering Prayer

God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Benediction

God be before you, to show you the way to liberation.

God be behind you, to strengthen you in the path of righteousness.

God be beside you, a good friend by your side.

God be within you and open up your heart to love and to fight for life.

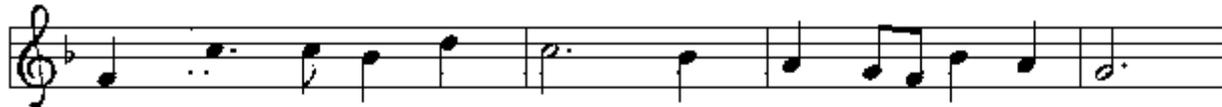
Amen



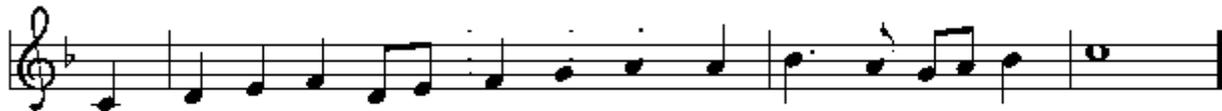
Sending Hymn

ELW 651

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens list - ed minds
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:



Refrain
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Postlude





CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2020

Carter Bertke
Caroline Fisher
Grace Gramza
Julia Greber
Gabi Heindel
Makenna Samaniego
Luke Stachler
Katie Trisel



Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Sola Fide
Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone