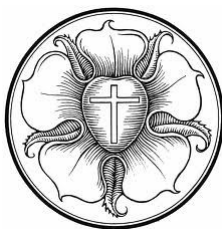


REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 29, 2017
Christ Lutheran Church
Marshall, MN



On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. These Theses focused on one topic – the abuse of indulgences in the church of the day. They were not the final words of the Reformation but rather were the spark that began the Lutheran Reformation. This year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of this movement that literally shook the world.

We are a confessional Lutheran church body. Although the confessional documents are centuries old, they still hold a central place in the mission and ministry of our congregations and synod. We confess that the Confessional are “a true exposition of the Word of God and a correct presentation of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.” Subscription to the Lutheran Confessions identifies us as not only Bible-believing Christians but also confessional Lutherans. In 1531 (486 years ago), the Lutherans issued a defense of Christian doctrine called “The Apology of the Augsburg Confession.” This was written to answer matters of dispute that arose after the presentation, in 1530, of the Augsburg Confession. The “Apology” (or “Defense”) is a lengthy document which highlights especially that we are justified by grace through faith alone. Christ’s redeeming work is the cornerstone of Lutheran doctrine.

Opening Hymn: #200 *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”*

Verse 1 Choirs

Verses 2-4 Congregation (please rise for v. 4)

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

Invocation and Responses (*Using Luther's 95 Theses and Scripture*)

In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent," he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance. *Thesis 1*
**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.** Psalm 51:1-2

Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally condemned, together with their teacher. *Thesis 32*

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." *Galatians 3:10*

Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters. *Thesis 36*

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases. He does not treat us as our sins deserve, or repay us according to his iniquities. For as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalms 103:2,3,10,12

Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church. This is given to him by God, even without indulgence letters. *Thesis 37*

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. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. *Romans 3:21-25*

It is vain to trust in salvation by indulgence letters, even though the one selling indulgences, or even the pope, were to offer his soul as security. *Thesis 52*

Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! *Galatians 1:8*

The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God. *Thesis 62*

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. *Romans 5:1-2*

Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their head, through penalties, death, and hell, and thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace. *Thesis 94 & 95*

Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. *1 Peter 4:13,5:10-11*

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, through the preaching of your servants, the blessed Reformers, you caused the light of the gospel to shine forth. Grant that we may faithfully defend it against all enemies and joyfully proclaim it for the salvation of people everywhere to the glory of your holy name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen. (spoken)

Anthem – Sr. Choir *“This Is My Word”*

Confession and Absolution

All: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son \dagger and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

First Lesson: 2 Kings 23:1-3

Response – *“Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*
The Heil Family

Second Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-17

Response – *“O Church, Arise”*

Vv. 1-2 selected voices Vv.3-4 Cong.

O Church, arise, and put your armour on; hear the call of Christ our Captain. For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has given. With shield of faith and belt of Truth, we'll stand against the devil's lies; An army bold, whose battle-cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war - to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor; And with the sword that makes the wounded whole, we will fight with faith and valor. When faced with trials on ev'ry side, we know the outcome is secure, and Christ will have the prize of which he died - an inheritance of nations.

**Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
as the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away
and Christ emerges from the grave,
this victory march continues 'til the day
ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.**

**So Spirit come, put strength in ev'ry stride,
give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
that we may run with faith to win the prize
of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
retelling triumphs of His grace,
we hear their calls and hunger for the day
when with Christ we stand in Glory.**

Gospel Lesson: John 8:31-32

Sermon Hymn - #204 "O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word"

Sermon Text: John 8:31-32 Know the Truth

The Confession of Faith – (Formula of Concord, Solid Decl., Article III: 9-11) *We read in unison.*

Regarding the righteousness of faith before God, we unanimously believe, teach, and confess on the basis of the general summary of our Christian faith and confession expressed above that poor sinful people are justified before God, that is, absolved – pronounced free of all sins and of judgment of the damnation that they deserved and accepted as children and heirs of eternal life – without the least bit of our own "merit or worthiness," apart from all preceding, present, or subsequent words. We are justified on the basis of sheer grace, because of the sole merit, the entire obedience, and the bitter suffering, death, and the resurrection of our Lord Christ alone, whose obedience is reckoned to us as righteousness.

The Holy Spirit conveys these benefits to us in the promise of the holy gospel Faith is the only means through which we lay hold of them, accept them, apply them to ourselves, and appropriate them. Faith itself is a gift of God, through which we acknowledge Christ our redeemer in the Word of the gospel and trust in him. Only because of his obedience does God the Father forgive our sins by grace, regard us as upright and righteous, and give us eternal salvation.

The Gathering of our Gifts

Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn – #541 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide” Vv. 1-4

Closing Collect

Closing Hymn - #541 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”
Vv. 5-7



This Week:

<i>Today:</i>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday School/Teen and Adult BC
	10:30 AM	Worship
	3:00 PM	Reformation Worship at MLC
<i>Monday:</i>	12:30 PM	Women’s Prayer Group
<i>Tuesday:</i>	10:00 AM	Pastors Study Club
	6:30 PM	Christ Lutheran on Cable TV
<i>Wednesday:</i>	12:30 PM	Christ Lutheran on Cable TV
	6:30 PM	Confirmation Class
	7:00 PM	Luther Musical at Samuel
<i>Thursday:</i>	1:30 PM	Ladies Aid
	6:30 PM	Jesus Cares Ministry
<i>Sunday:</i>	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Sunday School/Teen and Adult BC
	10:30 AM	Worship
	6:00 PM	Adult Information Class

SINGING TODAY: A special thank you to the choir and its director and accompanist Mr. and Mrs. Festerling, the students from Samuel Preschool-8th grade, vocalists Melanie Werner, Craig, Kristin, Alex and Jacob Heil, and trumpeter Nicole Kotecki who helped beautify our Reformation worship.

THIS AFTERNOON: A Festival Service on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation will be held at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN, in the Chapel of the Christ today at 3:00 PM. MN District President Charles Degner will be the preacher. Also included will be all MLC choirs, the MLC Hosanna Ringers, and the MLC Wind Symphony, and an MLC Brass Ensemble. Fellowship and refreshments will follow the service. Come and celebrate the blessings of the Reformation!

FALL BACK: Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour next weekend as Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th.

LUTHER MUSICAL AT SAMUEL: On Wednesday at 7:00 PM, the children in grades K-8 at Samuel will present the musical play "Martin Luther." We are putting this musical on to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the work of Luther to preserve the truth of the Gospel. The performance will be in the school gym. Afterward we plan to offer refreshments/bars/cookies in the cafeteria. The congregation is invited to attend.

AIC: Pastor will be conducting a new set of Adult Information Classes for anyone who wants to learn more about what our church teaches and believes. These classes can lead to membership at Christ but are also a great refresher for all members. Classes will be held on Sunday evenings starting November 5th from 6:00-7:30 PM in the church basement.