

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

October 25, 2020

10:00 a.m.

REFORMATION SUNDAY/CONFIRMATION



Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

PRELUDE *Cantate Domino (Sing to the Lord a New Song)*

G. Pitoni (1657-1743), arr. D.W. Morgan
prerecorded by brass quartet and organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

words of Martin Luther (1483-1546)

This life, therefore, is not righteousness,
Not health, but healing,

Not being, but becoming,
Not rest, but exercise.

We are not yet what we shall be,
But we are going towards it,

The process is not yet finished,
But it is going on,

This is not the end,
But it is the road.

All does not yet gleam in glory,
But all is being purified.

GATHERING HYMN #504 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*



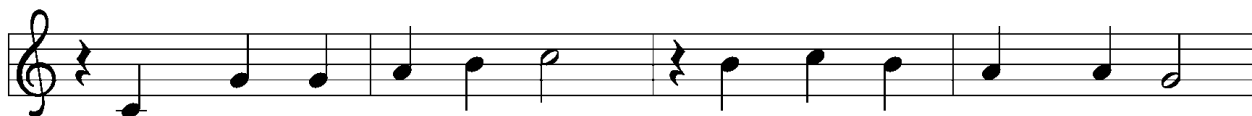
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
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?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
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,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
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.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Offered by Sofia Aronson

Gracious God we pray for your holy church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Christ, who is the truth who sets us free.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

read by Jordan Blais

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 word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Acts 16:16-34*

read by Reese Orn

¹⁶One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors

wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

²⁹The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

³³At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Choir: If you continue in my word, you are truly | my disciples,*
and you will know the truth, and the truth will | make you free. *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

read by Ian Morse

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 of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

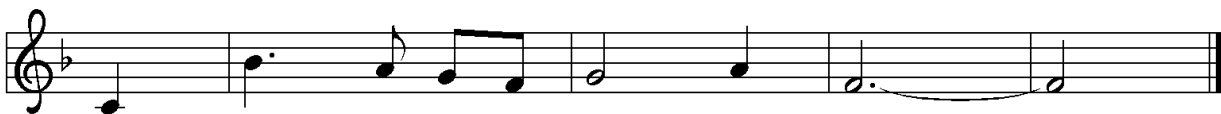
HYMN OF THE DAY #862 *Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock*



1 Praise, praise! You are my rock. The wind, the waves are high. You hold me
2 Praise, praise! You are my rock. My des - ert sand is dry. You break the
3 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You calm the fear and pain. One word of
4 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You host the ta - ble set. We break the



when the waves are strong. You hold me lest I die, I die.
rock, a riv - er flows. You hear me when I cry, I cry.
faith and I am well, I rise to praise and walk a - gain.
bread, we drink the cup; we know whom we have met, have met.



Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.

5 Praise, praise! You are my rock. The Easter grave is sealed; you roll the stone—you, God, alone— then sin and death are healed, are healed. Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.	6 Praise, praise! You are my rock. You stood high on a hill. A holy cloud: you are on high. Be still, my heart, be still, be still. Praise, praise! O God, you are my rock.
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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

PRESENTATION

I present _____ who desires to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Sofia Geraldine Aronson
Jordon Marlan Blais
Benjamin Scott LaMaster
Ian Richard Morse
Reese Louise Orn
Daniel Edwin Sampson

Confirmands present Bible verses

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin,
and confess the faith of the church.

Confirmands and assembly respond

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

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, the Son of God?

**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 God 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.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the
covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and pray for *them* in
their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

*Parents of confirmands are invited at home to place hands on their confirmands' heads
as we pray the blessing:*

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new

birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Anointing Prayer for Each Confirmand

Stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit:

**the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen. Isaiah 11:2**

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God

and continue to grow in faith, spread God's love and gather in community.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

or

Bless we the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GOD EXTENDS AN INVITATION: \$100 drawing to make a difference in the world

OFFERING

*You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to **218-325-9525** with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Grant Us Thy Peace*

text: Martin Luther
music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Soli Deo Gloria Virtual Choir

Grant us thy peace, almighty Lord, O source of ev'ry blessing!
Feeble and frail trust we thy word, all things in thee possessing.
In thee our hope and safety.

OFFERING PRAYER

Offered by Ben LaMaster

God our provider,

You extend an invitation to offer ourselves in response to your goodness.

Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table,
and which we share in your world in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. Deuteronomy 2:7

While we are a scattered community today, we remain one body in Christ, rooted and held together by the ever-present love of God. As with the Israelites in the wilderness, God watches over us even as we are apart, providing what is needed to sustain us on the journey.

It is often through the ordinary work of our lives that God's nourishing presence is revealed and offered. Tear off a piece of bread and hold it in your hand. Give thanks for the many hands that worked separately but in common purpose to produce this food for our bodies. Remember God's presence through hands that create, hands that support and protect, hands that reach out in love, hands that soothe and console, hands that work together for peace and justice. As you eat this bread, pray that your own hands will be strengthened and blessed for service, revealing in all they do the loving presence of God in the world. **Amen.**

HYMN #715 *Christ, Be Our Light*



4 Long - ing for shel-ter, man - y are home -less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Nourished by the living God and grounded in this community of faith, we pray:

**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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #664 *Heaven Is Singing for Joy*

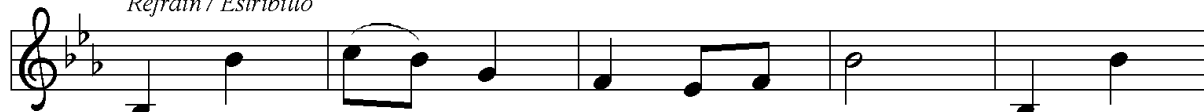


El cie - lo can - ta a - le - grí - a, ¡a - le - lu - ya!
1 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,
2 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,
3 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,



por - que en tu vi - da y la mí - a bri - lla la glo - ria de Dios.
for in your life and mine is shin - ing the glo - ry of God.
for your life and mine u - nite in the love of our God.
for your life and mine will al - ways bear wit - ness to God.

Refrain / Estribillo



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be Christ's hands and feet in the world.
Thanks be to God.

Daniel Sampson

POSTLUDE *A Mighty Fortress is our God*

German tune *Ein' feste Burg*, arr. Walter Pelz
Karen Sande, organ

MINISTERS All People of First Lutheran Church

PASTOR The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman

PASTORAL INTERN Logan McLean Strike

PROGRAM STAFF Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate
Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
Rachael Kresha, Apostle Choir Director, Associate Organist

MUSICIANS Mary Dontje, Erna Peterson, Glenn Peterson, Brad Anderson, and Michael Fuchs, singers; brass quartet: Bob Boman and Greg Hilliard, trumpet; Liz Raduege, horn; Luke Hilliard, trombone; Soli Deo Gloria Virtual Choir

VIDEOGRAPHER Sam Weston

VIDEO EDITOR Stacie Curnow

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Evangelical Lutheran Worship texts and hymns ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917 and One License #A-729428.

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.
We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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