

*Continue  
in my word*

JOHN 8:31

**Mount Calvary Lutheran Church**

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Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904

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[www.mt-calvarylutheran.org](http://www.mt-calvarylutheran.org)

The Rev. James N. West, Interim Pastor

*October 26 & 27, 2024 Reformation*

## Introduction to the Festival of the Reformation

While it's tempting on Reformation Sunday to focus on Luther's theology, Luther was primarily concerned with faith and not theological musings. Theologian and author Frederick Buechner talks about the distinction between the two this way: "Theology is reasoned, systematic, and orderly whereas faith is disorderly, intermittent, and full of surprises." I see some of you nodding your heads – good!

To Buechner, Faith is not about ascribing to this doctrine or that practice, Faith is about the stirring of the Spirit within – "our movement *toward the divine*." Buechner's description is an apt one and perhaps particularly encouraging for those of us who embrace the challenge of belonging to a continually reforming tradition such as ours.

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Preservice Music

### Welcome

### Thanksgiving for Baptism (Luther's Flood Prayer, 1523)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

*The pastor addresses the assembly.*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the Baptismal Font as we give thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.  
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word, you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you  
for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song:** “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

**No. 517**

### **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.**

### **Reformation Day Dialog**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.**

There is one Body and one Spirit;

**There is one hope in God's call to us;**

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

**One God and Father of all.**

Blessed be God who sustains and protects his holy church.

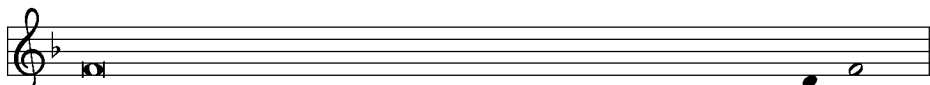
**And blessed be God who guides and confirms us in our Faith.**

**Amen. Alleluia!**

### **Kyrie**



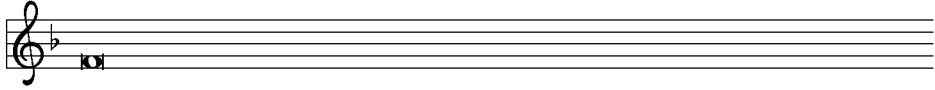
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



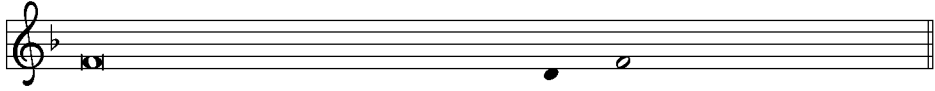
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



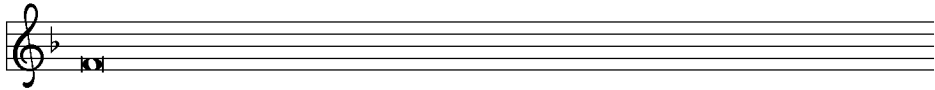
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



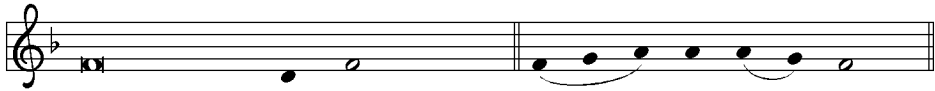
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



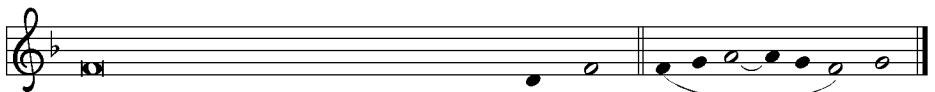
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister

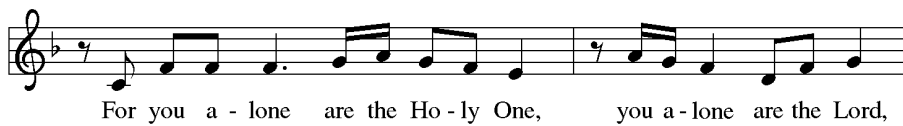
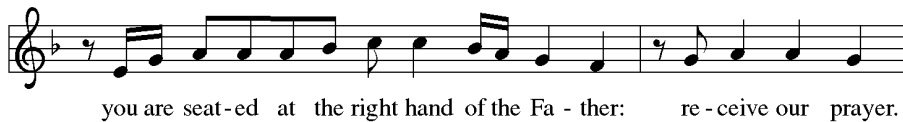
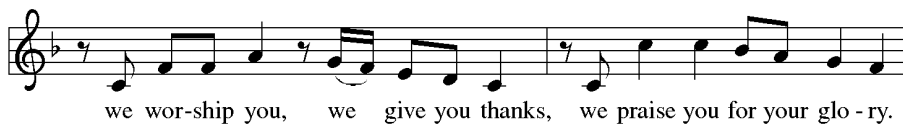


Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Word

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

### First 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.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It 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.

<sup>33</sup>But 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.

<sup>34</sup>No 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.**

### Psalm 46

God is our shelter and strength,  
a very present help in times of trouble.  
Therefore, we will not be afraid,  
though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains totter as it heaves.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

There is a river whose streams refresh the city of God,  
a river which makes glad the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
At the crack of dawn God helps her.  
The nations rage and the kingdoms shake;  
he raises his voice, the earth melts away.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Come now, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what astounding things he has done in the world.  
Behold the One who puts an end to the futility of war,  
who breaks the bow, and snaps the spear;  
who piles the shields upon the flames.

“Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted over the earth.”

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

### **Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28**

*Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and 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.*

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

The gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon:** “A Freedom Won by Surrender”

**Hymn of the Day** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**No. 504**

## Apostles’ Creed

Together with the whole church,  
we confess the faith into which we were baptized.

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

**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.**

**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.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God, our refuge and strength, you make all things new. Reform your church so that our life together bears witness to your unmerited love. Free us from sin and write the law of love on our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Reform our relationships with you, with one another, and with all creation. Restore this good earth, the home you entrust to our care. Enrich soils, cleanse waters, and purify the air. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Bring an end to war and to the violence that shakes the nations and worries your people. When voices of fear threaten to overwhelm us, fill the earth with your peace and strength. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Be the present help of those suffering the tumult of illness, poverty, abandonment, and uncertainty. Bring your calm and healing to those in need, especially those we name silently in our hearts or aloud. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In this community, O Lord, we are all sinners and saints. In our dealings with one another and in our witness in the world, help us trust in your mercy, freely offering others what you give us. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We remember before you those who have died in Christ and now live in the fullness of salvation. We trust your presence now even as we wait for your glory to be revealed.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## Children's Message (Sundays)

### Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## Offering Song "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"

**No. 494**



- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
- 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.  
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.  
in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

## Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty,  
all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,  
so that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

## Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection  
opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff has four measures and the second has four measures. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,' and 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -'.

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars,  
beneath the sea,  
within each cell,  
with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water,  
by night and day,  
across the wilderness,  
out of exile,  
into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life,  
near to those who suffer,  
beside the sinner,  
among the poor,  
with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

### *Jesus' Words of Institution*

Remembering his love for us in his suffering, death, and resurrection,  
and now at his table we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering,  
within this meal,  
among your people,  
throughout the world.  
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,  
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,  
in your church, without end.  
**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

O Lord, our refuges and our strength  
Remember us in your kingdom.

**Our Father in heaven,**  
    **hallowed be your name,**  
    **your kingdom come,**  
    **your will be done,**  
        **on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**  
    **as we forgive those**  
        **who sin against us.**

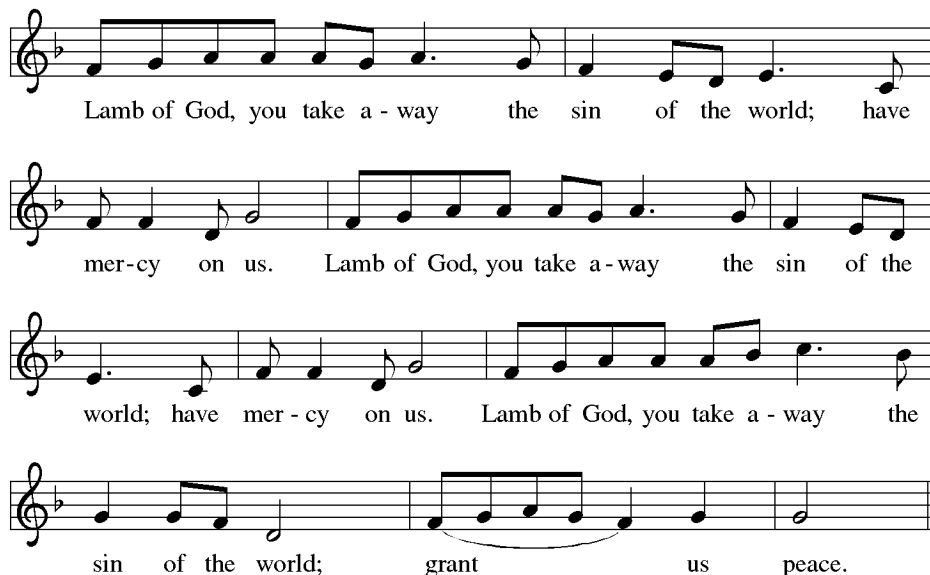
**Save us from the time of trial**  
    **and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**  
    **and the glory are yours,**  
    **now and forever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Special Music “Beautiful Life” Performed by Pat Barrett

### Prayer after Communion

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### The Blessing of The Kits of Hope

#### A Reading from Acts 2:43-47

<sup>43-45</sup> All the baptized were in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person’s need was met.

<sup>46-47</sup> They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

## **The Blessing**

God of grace, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.

**Jesus, help us speak words of grace to our neighbors.**

God of Mercy, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of hope, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

**Jesus, help us reach out with mercy to our neighbors.**

God of Peace, we give thanks for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out.

**Jesus, help us to be signs of your peace to our neighbors.**

God of Hope, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

**No. 890**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

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Readers/Communion Assistants

**Oct 26** Kevin Oleksa

**Oct 27** Ray Leverknight

**Nov 2** **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

**Nov 3** Jamie McMullen

**Nov 9** Tim & Kerri Moyer

**Nov 10** Carter & Laura Bower

**Nov 16** **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

**Nov 17** **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

Ushers

**Oct 26** **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

**Oct 27** Mayket Family

**Nov 2** Tim & Kerri Moyer

**Nov 3** Mayket Family

**Nov 9** Linda Barnhart & Pat Bittner

**Nov 10** Bill Eschrich & Mary Ann Mapes

**Nov 16** Joan Bunnell & Janis Daily

**Nov 17** **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

Altar Guild

**October** – Matt Hockensmith Family

Come and join us for our annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Event that is happening on Sunday November 3, from 4pm to 6pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 and under. Your donation includes a large spaghetti with meatballs, a house salad, dinner roll, drink, and even a free dessert! Tickets can be purchased at the church office during business hours or after worship services on Saturdays and Sundays. *You can also purchase tickets on the day of the event, but we highly encourage early ticket purchases.*  
See you there!