

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 25, 2020

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH | 170 McMillan Road Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
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| **This bulletin accompanies the Sunday 9:00am Online worship via Facebook.** |

WELCOME

Saint James Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America welcomes you to our online worship during Ordinary Time, which we mark as the Sundays after Pentecost. This season is about growth, faith, discipleship and the Great Commission.

Today celebrates **Reformation Sunday**, the day that commemorates Martin Luther nailing the 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Church. 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.

As the community continues to address the challenges of the COVID19 pandemic, Saint James is pleased to offer multiple opportunities for worship: in person sanctuary worship (spoken), online (music), and **Low Contact Distribution** on Sunday following in person worship which will be offered on **November 1**. We confidently trust that the Holy Spirit of God makes us one community even when we are at a distance from one another.

LEADERSHIP TODAY

Pastor Denise M. Grant

Rev. Dr. Ken A. Grant

Kurt Heyer

David Billy

Bishop Scott Gerard

Roland Chandler, Mary Gushee

Rich Moellering, Sarida Montgomery Scott

Presiding

Preacher

Minister of Music

keyboard

keyboard

Lectors

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Christian Flor

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!

INVOCATION & DIALOG

In the name of the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Great is the Lord who is our refuge and strength.
God is our refuge and strength.

Even as the earth is shaken, the seas roar, and thunder echoes amid the storm,
God is our refuge and strength.

When we wander far from you, O Lord, seeking our own path instead of your righteousness, even then you offer forgiveness and mercy; your grace overflows.
God is our refuge and strength.

The Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Christ Jesus,
God is our refuge and strength.

Keep us steadfast in your Word, O Lord; strengthen your church, unite us as one body, embolden us to proclaim your name.
God is our refuge and strength.

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.**

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.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

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.

SONG

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.

A reading from Romans.

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 Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SONG

Amazing Grace

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see. | 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures. |
| 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed! | 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun. |
| 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home. | |

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Psalm 46

God will strengthen and preserve the people of the covenant, even during the cosmic turmoil of this generation and in the years to come. The first verse of the Psalm inspired Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress."

A reading from Psalms.

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SONG *Give Me One More Chance*

written by Bishop Scott Gerard

Romans 12:1-8

Paul appeals to the people to live out their faith both inwardly and outwardly, reject the distractions of the world, and celebrate the diversity that is within the church.

A reading from Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

Rev. Dr. Ken A. Grant
Pastor, Genesis Lutheran Church

Built on a Rock

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is

fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our

chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.
 Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887
 Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
 grant that, when church bells are ringing,
 many may come to hear your Word,
 who here this promise is bringing:
 "I know my own, my own know me;
 you, not the world, my face shall see;
 my peace I leave with you. Amen."

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

A brief silence

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disaster including the fires of the west coast and tropical storms on the eastern coast.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protector of all, you guard your people from evil. Help your church to provide sanctuary for all who are in need. Grant safe passage for all refugees and those who flee from war, bring peace and reconciliation where there is racial injustice and violence. Guide elected leaders at every level to work for the benefit of all people.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant wisdom to those in authority: for police officers and firefighters, for social workers and attorneys, for health care workers and scientists; for our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Synodical Bishop Don Kriess; for our pastors and all who provide leadership in the church. Guide their decision making, uphold them in the leadership they provide.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring health and well-being to all who are sick, strength to those who are in distress from COVID19, mercy to those who suffer, comfort to those who grieve, and your presence to all who are in need. Bring food and resources to those who are hungry, lack sufficient housing, and those who are unemployed or under employed. Hear the needs of those dear to us, especially those we name silently and aloud ...

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this unified family of faith, we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death, Jesus Christ. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Make us of one mind in purpose to share our faith in word and deed. Guide us to continue to work for the reform and renewal of the Church begun by Martin Luther as well as our own ancestors in faith, until that day when the kingdom is fulfilled in your glory.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for the gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for the day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

The Church's One Foundation

1 The church's one foundation is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 by schisms . . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

SENDING

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

POSTLUDE

Built on a Rock

Flor Peeters