

Grow ... Go ... Gather
October 25, 2020
The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Oct. 31, 1517



Reformationstag
Reformation Day

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)**

2040 Oakwood Avenue N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505



Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer

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The Preservice Music Call to Worship Welcome

The Opening Hymn: LSB 656, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain



That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none,
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,

Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -

is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 the word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main - eth.

Tune and text: Public domain

The Invocation

A: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: Listen to my prayer, O God, and do not ignore my plea;

C: Hear me and answer me.

A: Evening, morning, and noon,

C: I cry our in distress, and He hears my voice.

A: Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;

C: He will never let the righteous fall.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

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 her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at

the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson: John 8:31-36 (Please rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel.)

A The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Our Confession of Faith

A: What is the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed?

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

A: What does this mean?

C: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

The Sermon Hymn: LSB 566, "By Grace I'm Saved"



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip-ture ev - er false-hood taught? No! Then this word must
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our

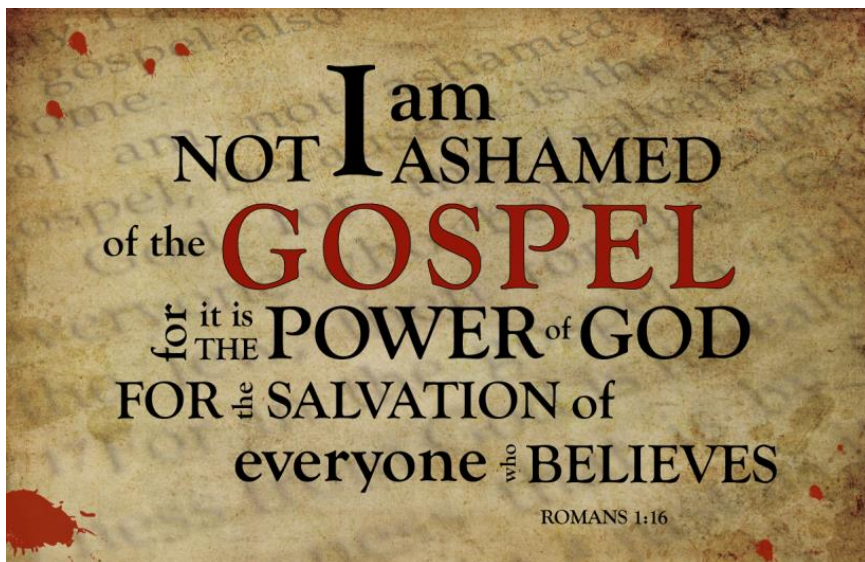


true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

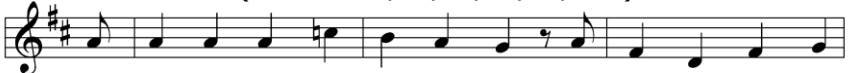
- 5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?
- 6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

Tune and text: Public domain

The Sermon: Romans 1:16-17, "A Reformation Invitation - the Just Live by Faith "



The Post-Sermon Hymn: LSB 555, "Salvation Unto Us Has Come" (verses 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10)



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
 2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could
 5 Yet as the Law must be ful - filled Or we must die de -
 6 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us sal -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
 ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For
 spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, Our
 va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad And



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
 man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
 hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the
 build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 Law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's
 Lord, I plead, Your death is now my



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
 Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
 ven - geance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.
 life in - deed, For You have paid my ran - som.

9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
 And rests in Him unceasing;
 And by its fruits true faith is known,
 With love and hope increasing.
 For faith alone can justify;
 Works serve our neighbor and supply
 The proof that faith is living.

Please rise for verse 10

△ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace;
All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessèd name we hallow.

Tune and text: Public domain

The Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

**☐ 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.**

A Concluding Prayer

A: Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us according to Your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!



The Closing Hymn: LSB 655 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

1 Lord, keep us steady in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS



NOTE: Pastor Schaeffer and Sandra are on vacation through Tuesday, October 27th. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact one of our Deacons:

- Craig Popma 616-531-6481
- Paul Bragenzer 231-758-0633
- Bryan Ensing 616-589-6925
- Jerry Talen 616-826-7342
- Paul Tomasunas 616-260-9864
- John Weiss 616-773-0805

Thank you Jerry Talen and Charlie Kirt for conducting our worship this morning.



Events of the Week: October 25 – November 1

- TODAY:** 11:00 a.m. Bible study on Facebook
- Monday:** 10:00 a.m. Registration for **November 1**
Worship begins
6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Worship Service
- Wed.:** 10:00 a.m. Bible Study with Darrell
12 Noon Devotion w/ Pastor Schaeffer on Facebook Live
7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting
- Thursday:** 6:00 p.m. Adult Bells 
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir
7:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study w/ Pastor
- Friday:** 12:00 Noon Registration closes for phone-in
Worship registration.
- Saturday** 2:30-4 p.m. **TRUNKS OF TREATS** 
6:00 p.m. Registration for Worship is closed
- Sunday:** 9:30 a.m. Communion Worship at St. James (for registered members) and on Facebook Live
11:00 a.m. Bible Study on Facebook Live

Today's Deacons: Bryan Ensing, Craig Popma and Jerry Talen

Ushers: The Nate, Kim, Hayden and Heath Urbanski

November Altar Guild: Sherry and Jennifer Schmidt

FINANCIAL DISCIPLESHIP (October 18, 2020)

General Fund	\$3,025.00
Plate Collection	110.00
Roof Repair Fund	75.00
ISJ Academy	150.00
Tessaro Ministry Nigeria	60.00
Memorials (Ardis & Weber)	50.00
Total:	\$3,470.00



We are still in **NEED** of "crowd control" workers during **Trunks of Treats** next Saturday! Even if you volunteer for only 30-45 minutes, especially at 2:15, we will be doing all we can to insure the safety of our guests and our members. PLEASE call Cindy (648-7287, leave a message) as soon as possible! THANK YOU!



ISJ ACADEMY is having a **WREATH SALE** beginning **now** through **November 11th**. All the proceeds will go to new classroom furniture. The undecorated wreaths are 22" at \$24 each. Decorated wreaths

are also 22" and \$33 each. A 21" swag is available for \$19.

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office door. Please make checks out to "ISJ Academy". Payment is due at the time of ordering. Thank you. If you have any questions, please contact ISJ Academy at 363-0505.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE QUOTE: October 25

"I pray that the love of Christ emboldens you to rejoice in the Word and to speak it without fear of consequence ... may future generations speak of us like we do of David, Josiah, Luther, and our forefathers. May our children say of you and me, 'Our forefathers stood their ground on Christ alone, on His Word of truth alone.' The truth has set you free. Enjoy your own personal reformation. Then let your freedom in Christ be contagious! Let your life continue to shout: Thank Jesus Christ my Savior! I'm free at last ... and so are you! Amen."

Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org