



**WORSHIP OCTOBER 25, 2020**  
**REFORMATION SUNDAY THE 21ST SUNDAY AFTER**  
**PENTECOST**

*On October 31, 1517, a 34-year-old German monk named Martin Luther nailed a document containing 95 theses, or propositions, to the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral. Luther's conviction about being saved by God's grace came from a sudden insight as he studied a passage from Paul's Letter to the Romans. Luther had wrestled with earning God's love, sure he was a sinner falling short of salvation – then he read Paul's revelation: we are justified -made right with God- by the gift of grace.*

*Luther's revelation became a Reformation as the power of grace moved across Europe. We are heirs to the heritage of Martin Luther, to the reforming spirit of and to the hope faith provides in a challenged and changing world.*

*Welcome to worship! We are one family of faith even as we worship in-house and wherever we are sheltering in place. Let us gather together in heart and spirit, encouraging, praying and caring for one another.*

**GATHERING**

Announcements and time for prayer and preparation.

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

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

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.**

For there is no distinction,

since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;

**We are now justified by God's grace through Christ Jesus.**

Jesus said: 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;

and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'

Let us acknowledge our sin and seek the freedom of God's grace.

Faithful God, **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,**

**and turn us again to life in you**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,

and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit.

Live in freedom and peace to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: - *Silence* - . God of new life we pray for your holy catholic 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. May the beauty of

your grace be written on our hearts reforming our faith for the days ahead in the

name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, **Amen.**



## THE READINGS

The first reading is from Jeremiah 31:31-34

<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!**

*Silence for Reflection*

The Psalm is read responsively by verse.  
The congregation’s response is in **bold** type.

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths| of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
**the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the| shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. **Amen.**

*Silence for Reflection*

The second reading is from Romans 3:19-28

<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!**

Alleluia! God is our refuge and strength,

**The God of Jacob is our stronghold, Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel John 8:31-36 is read. It concludes:*

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Teaching the Word/Sermon

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

In confidence and trust, let us confess our faith:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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 THE CHURCH**

With the church celebrating salvation and Reformation, in trust and hope let us join our hearts in prayer for the Spirit to move in healing and renewing power in the church and for all in need.

*Silence for reflection*

We praise you, O Christ, for gathering your people by the Word of salvation. For the apostles, martyrs and witnesses of the early church; By the promise that Christ is our rock and salvation; by your truth that the gates of hell will not prevail against it we give you thanks. **We praise and thank you, O Lord!**

For Martin and Katie Luther and all those down the ages who have made a joyful and reforming confession of faith for the sake of Christ and the Gospel. For brave sisters and brothers in faith who carried the Gospel across distances of place and time, and for the freedom we have to gather, witness and serve:

**We praise and thank you, O Lord!**

Where the church has failed to be light and grace; where we once and now let pride and power to divide us; where we have failed to see you in the hungry and lonely, the hungry and cold, in all denied justice; where we have not been generous and faithful stewards of creation, we pray: **Reform and strengthen your church, O God.**

Make your church truly one in You. Keep us faithful and bold in proclaiming the gospel. Purge from us all apathy. Strengthen us against making peace with injustice and all the -isms that deprive your children of justice, dignity, and your shalom. We pray: **Reform and strengthen your church, O God.**

Hear our prayers for all longing for healing, hungry for justice, and all those whose needs we bring before you now:

all who need medical treatment from any and every cause,  
and those unable to receive care...

all who mourn, living with fear and loss and grief...

families working to meet the needs of work and home...

those struggling and anxious for health in body, mind and finances....

Hear our needs, and the needs known only to You. Be our strength to meet the days ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Guide and rule and re-form your church forever, Lord Jesus, so that it walks steadily in times of quiet and boldly in times of trouble; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

*Pause to share Peace and offer thanks for God's gifts that sustain and bless us. If you wish, offer thanks for blessings received, something or someone for whom you are grateful. Offerings can be made online by going to the website [christpipersville.org](http://christpipersville.org), using the QR code with your smartphone or mailed. We are grateful for your continuing support of our mission and ministry! Then continue:*



Let us pray. *Silence* God of mercy and grace,  
**the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things from Your Word, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

*A Brief Silence*

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,  
for by your Word you made all things:  
you spoke light into darkness,  
called forth beauty from chaos,  
and brought life into being.  
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel  
to tell of your wonderful gifts:  
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,  
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.  
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**  
Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,

you speak to us and call us to witness:

forgiveness through the cross,  
life to those entombed by death,  
the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Lord, now let your your servant go in peace  
according to Your word.

**For mine eyes have seen Your salvation;  
Which you have prepared before the face of all people;**

A light to reveal You to the nations,  
And the glory of Your people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Spirit;as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

Let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

**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.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

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

*We give thanks to God that we are able to gather in-house and wherever we are sheltering in place, and for your faithful support as we move forward serving one another and out community.*

POSTLUDE



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