**NEW BEGINNINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Reformation Day –** October 29th, 2023 (11:11 am)

**FREE INDEED**

*Psalm 46*

*Romans 3:19-28*

***John 8:31-36***

***The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace***

*“Wisdom is justified by her deeds”* (Matt. 11:19), and the true wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, justifies us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, in order that we may eat and drink with Him in His Kingdom and *“remain in the house forever”* (John 8:35). He is *“a friend of tax collectors and sinners”* (Matt. 11:18–19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel *“to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people”* (Rev. 14:6), *“the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law”* (Rom. 3:21), *“that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus”* (Rom. 3:26). And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, *“whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith”* (Rom. 3:25), *“you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”* (John 8:31–32).

**GATHERING SONG – HOLY**

Holy holy God Almighty

Who was and is to come

God of glory You're so worthy

All the saints bow down

***Holy is Your name in all the earth***

***Righteous are Your ways so merciful***

***Everything You've done is just and true***

***Holy holy God are You***

***Holy holy God (are You)***

All blessing all honor belongs to You

All power all wisdom is Yours all blessing

All blessing all honor belongs to You

All power all wisdom is Yours

**CCLI Song # 3233773**

**Brenton Brown**

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**WELCOME**

## GATHERING SONG - JESUS DOES

Who tells the sun to rise every morning

Colors the sky with the shades of His glory

Wakes us with mercy and love

Jesus does

Who holds the orphan comforts the widow

Cries for injustice feels every sorrow

Carries the pain of His children

Jesus does

***So we sing***

***Praise to the Father who gave us the Son***

***Praise to the Spirit who's living in us***

***When I was a sinner He saved me from who I was***

***('Cause) that's what Jesus does***

Who understands the heart of the sinner

Showers His grace over all our mistakes

Washes us clean with His blood

Jesus does

Who sings the song of sweet forgiveness

Who stole the keys to hell and the grave

Who has the power to save

Jesus does

*Oh what a Friend*

*Oh what a Savior*

*He's always been good*

*He's always been faithful*

*He came to my rescue*

*When I needed Him most*

*And saved my soul*

**CCLI Song # 7205247**

**Andrew Bergthold | Ed Cash | Franni Cash | Kyle Briskin | Martin Cash | Scott Cash**

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**AS WE BEGIN and CALLING ON GOD'S NAME (Pastor)**

**P -** In the name of the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT. Amen.

**THE FIRST ARTICLE “CREATION” – LUTHER EXPLANATION**

**TOGETHER - I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**P -** *What does this mean?*

**C - I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty o thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.**

**P -** “Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven” (Small Catechism pg. 26)

*(Action - A prisoner with a chain and ball tied to his leg)*

**P -** “None is righteous, no, not one; **11**no one understands; no one seeks for God. **12**All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” **13**“Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” **14**“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” **15**“Their feet are swift to shed blood; **16**in their paths are ruin and misery, **17**and the way of peace they have not known.” **18**“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” (Romans 3:10-18)

**CONFESSION OF SINS -** *(said in unison)*

**C – Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.***(Brief silence)*

*(Action - The pastor unlocks the chains of the prisoner)*

**P -** Dear community! According to Romans 3: 19-28 we are free by faith in Jesus. “**19**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. **20**For by works of the law no human being[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3%3A19-28&version=ESV" \l "fen-ESV-27996a" \o "See footnote a)] will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. **21**But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— **22**the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: **23**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24**and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25**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. **26**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. **27**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. **28**For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (Pastor)**

**P - Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the FATHER and of the SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT. Go in peace! Your sins are forgiven! You are free by faith in Jesus. Amen.**

**KIDS’ SONG – JESUS LOVES ME THIS I KNOW**

**Jesus loves me, this I know,**

**For the Bible tells me so.**

**Little ones to him belong;**

**They are weak, but he is strong.**

***Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!***

***Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.***

**Jesus loves me he who died**

**Heaven’s gate to open wide.**

**He will wash away my sin,**

**Let his little child come in.**

***Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!***

***Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.***

**Jesus loves me, this I know,**

**As he loved so long ago,**

**Taking children on his knee,**

**Saying, “Let them come to me.”**

***Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!***

***Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.***

**KID’S MOMENT (Marilyn)**

**WORSHIP SONGS *-*****A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD – LSB 657** (**Brian Doerksen)**

1 A mighty fortress is our God,

A sword and shield victorious;

He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod

And wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe

Has sworn to work us woe.

With craft and dreadful might

He arms himself to fight.

On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might.

We would be lost, rejected.

But now a champion comes to fight,

Whom God Himself elected.

You ask who this may be?

The Lord of hosts is He,

Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,

God’s only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land

All threat’ning to devour us,

We tremble not, unmoved we stand;

They cannot overpow’r us.

Let this world’s tyrant rage;

In battle we’ll engage.

His might is doomed to fail;

God’s judgment must prevail!

One little word subdues him.

# 4 God’s Word forever shall abide,

# No thanks to foes, who fear it;

# For God Himself fights by our side

# With weapons of the Spirit.

# Were they to take our house,

# Goods, honor, child, or spouse,

# Though life be wrenched away,

# They cannot win the day.

# The Kingdom’s ours forever!

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# PRAYER BEFORE READINGS (Reader) – *Dear God. We thank you for your Holy Word that guide, forgives, motivates, and saves us through the work of Christ on the cross. Bless the readings we will hear today in our hearts. May we say with Samuel the Prophet, "Speak, Lord, that your servant listens". In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

# READING OF THE PSALM 46 - (Andy)

### *God Is Our Fortress*

**God is our refuge and strength,
    a very present[**[**b**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+46+&version=ESV#fen-ESV-14616b)**] help in trouble.
2Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
    though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
3though its waters roar and foam,
    though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah***

**4There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
    the holy habitation of the Most High.
5God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
    God will help her when morning dawns.
6The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
    he utters his voice, the earth melts.
7The Lord of hosts is with us;
    the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah***

**8Come, behold the works of the Lord,
    how he has brought desolations on the earth.
9He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
    he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
    he burns the chariots with fire.
10“Be still, and know that I am God.
    I will be exalted among the nations,
    I will be exalted in the earth!”
11The Lord of hosts is with us;
    the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

# READING OF THE GOSPEL JOHN 8:31-36 (Andy)

### *The Truth Will Set You Free*

**31So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”**

**34Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JOHN+8%3A31-36&version=ESV#fen-ESV-26404a)**] to sin. 35The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

## WORSHIP SONGS - IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found

He is my light my strength my song

This Cornerstone this solid Ground

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love what depths of peace

When fears are stilled when strivings cease

My Comforter my All in All

Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh

Fullness of God in helpless babe

This gift of love and righteousness

Scorned by the ones He came to save

Till on that cross as Jesus died

The wrath of God was satisfied

For every sin on Him was laid

Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay

Light of the world by darkness slain

Then bursting forth in glorious Day

Up from the grave He rose again

And as He stands in victory

Sin's curse has lost its grip on me

For I am His and He is mine

Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death

This is the power of Christ in me

From life's first cry to final breath

Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell no scheme of man

Can ever pluck me from His hand

Till He returns or calls me home

Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

**CCLI Song # 3350395**

**Keith Getty | Stuart Townend**

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**SERMON – “FREE INDEED” –** *John 8:31-36* **(Pastor Laverne)**

**THE SECOND ARTICLE “REDEMPTION” – LUTHER EXPLANATION**

**TOGETHER - I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**P -** *What does this mean?*

**C - I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

## WORSHIP SONG – AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost but now I'm found

Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed

***My chains are gone I've been set free***

***My God my Savior has ransomed me***

***And like a flood His mercy rains***

***Unending love amazing grace***

The Lord has promised good to me

His word my hope secures

He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow

The sun forbear to shine

But God who called me here below

Will be forever mine

Will be forever mine

You are forever mine

**CCLI Song # 4768151**

**Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio**

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**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH****(Prayer Pastor)**

***Luther’s Morning Prayer***

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

***Martin Luther’s Prayer***

Behold, Lord,

An empty vessel that needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in faith;

Strengthen thou me.

I am cold in love;

Warm me and make me fervent

That my love may go out to my neighbour.

I do not have a strong and firm faith;

At times I doubt and am unable to trust thee altogether.

O Lord, help me.

Strengthen my faith and trust in thee.

In thee I have sealed the treasures of all I have.

I am poor;

Thou art rich and didst come to be merciful to the poor.

I am a sinner;

Thou art upright.

With me there is an abundance of sin;

In thee is the fullness of righteousness.

Therefore, I will remain with thee of who I can receive

But to whom I may not give.

Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER (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.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE THIRD ARTICLE “SANCTIFICATION” – LUTHER EXPLANATION**

**TOGETHER - 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.**

**P -** *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.***

**BENEDICTION (Pastor)**

**P - The LORD bless you and keep you.**

**The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.**

**The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.**

## CLOSING SONGS - YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH

Great is Your faithfulness O God

You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart

You lead us by still waters into mercy

And nothing can keep us apart

*(So) remember Your people*

*Remember Your children*

*Remember Your promise O God*

***Your grace is enough***

***Your grace is enough***

***Your grace is enough for me***

Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob

You use the weak to lead the strong

You lead us in the song of Your salvation

And all Your people sing along

***Yeah Your grace is enough***

***Heaven reaches out to us***

***Your grace is enough for me***

***God I sing Your grace is enough***

***I'm covered in Your love***

***Your grace is enough for me for me***

**CCLI Song # 4477026**

**Matt Maher**

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