

Sola Gratia
Grace Alone

Sola Fide
Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura
Scripture Alone



REFORMATION DAY

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
October 31st, 2021

This day invites us to celebrate the perennial source of reform in the church: the Word of God and the sacraments of forgiveness and new life. Indeed, when the church welcomes a new member in baptism or gathers around the table of communion, the Holy Spirit's reforming labor continues among us.

While we are right to acknowledge that our souls are captive to sin and that we cannot free ourselves, we also celebrate the tremendous faithfulness of our God Who does not leave us in our sinful state, but comes among us bringing forgiveness and life.

*Today, hymns marked with an asterisk * are those written by Luther or during his lifetime.*

✝ GATHERING ✝

OPENING HYMN

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God**

#229 (grn)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

P. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God Who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P. God of all mercy,

- C. we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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
- P. There is, indeed, no distinction among us – we have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. But thanks be to God Who has passed over our sins and forgiven us. Not because we are deserving, but because God is faithful and keeps His promises. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you are set free and given a new life. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GREETING

- P. Holy people of God, called through the gospel of Christ, enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
- C. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *All Glory Be to God on High**

O Father, for Your lordship true we give You praise and honor;
 We worship You; we trust in You; we give You thanks forever.
 Your will is perfect, and Your might relentlessly confirms the right;
 Your lordship is our blessing.

Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, creation’s author,
 Redeemer of Your wand’ring ones, and source of all true pleasure:
 O Lamb of God, O Lord divine, conform our lives to Your design,
 And on us all have mercy.

O Holy Spirit, perfect gift, Who brings us consolation;
 To men and women saved by Christ assure Your inspiration.
 Through sickness, need, and bitter death, grant us Your warm, life-giving breath;
 our lives are in Your keeping. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P. Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in Your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church Your saving peace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C. **Amen**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah the prophet envisions a future day when the law will be written “on their hearts” (31:33). To know God in this way is to have a direct and profound connection to God. The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive wickedness and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God Who is both faithful and able to forget.

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. 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**

PSALM 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

- ¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- ⁴The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- ⁵There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁶God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown;
God shall help her at the break of day.
- ⁷The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- ⁸The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- ⁹Come now and look upon the works of the LORD,
what awesome things He has done on earth.
- ¹⁰It is He who makes war to cease in all the world;
He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
- ¹¹“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹²The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Martin Luther and other leaders of the Reformation believed the heart of the gospel was found in these words of Paul written to the Romans. All people have sinned, but God offers forgiveness of sins through Christ Jesus. We are justified, or put right with God, through the faithfulness of God in Jesus Christ.

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.

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**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *God's Word is Our Great Heritage*

God's Word is our great heritage, And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last Your Church may hold it fast
Throughout all generations.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. John 8:31-36

True freedom is not related to ethnic distinctions or social class. Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through His word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

C. Glory to You, O Lord

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

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

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Salvation Unto Us has Come**

#297 (grn)

THE APOSTLES' CREED WITH EXPLANATION FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM

L. Do you believe in God the Father?

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

L. What does this mean?

C. I believe that God has created me together with all creatures. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

L. In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, fields, livestock and all property – along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life.

C. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. God does all this out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

L. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C. 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.

L. What does this mean?

C. I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person.

L. He has purchased and freed us 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.

C. He has done all this in order that I may belong to Him, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just

as He is risen from the dead and lives and rules in eternity. This is most certainly true.

L. Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

C. 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.

L. What does this mean?

C. I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith.

L. Just as He calls gathers enlightens and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins – mine and those of all believers.

C. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Remember and Rejoice*

C. Remember and rejoice, renewed by floods of grace
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ, that time cannot erase.
God, bless us by Your grace; remind us of Your care
Renewing Spirit, fill us now, inspire our work, our prayer.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. God our provider,

C. all that we have is a sign of Your love; all that we are is a gift from Your hand. Receive these offerings along with our thanksgiving, that our lives may proclaim Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

✠ MEAL ✠

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

page 88

THE SANCTUS (HOLY, HOLY, HOLY)

page 89

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Holy God, our Bread of life ... bread for the world.

C. Amen.

P. In the night ... everlasting feast.
C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
P. By Your Spirit ... both now and forever. C. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER page 91

AGNUS DEI (Lamb of God) page 92

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING page 92

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (*written by Luther*)

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

P. People of God, stand firm in one spirit; strive side by side for the faith of the gospel; let your gentleness be known by everyone; and the God of peace, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and bless you now and forever.
C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *The Church's One Foundation* #369 (grn)

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
C. Thanks be to God.



These four letters stand for a Latin phrase: Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum, which means, "The Word of God endures forever." It became a motto of the Reformation.

THOSE WHO SERVE:

Ministers: All the People of God

Musician: Lou Knutson

Camera: Josh Sumption

Acolytes: Haley Noyes/Izzy Kamrath

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

Reader: Sara Wollum

Projection: Sara Wollum

Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason & Jerome Bruns

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October 24, 2021

General: \$3,718.42 (\$381.25 received through eGiving)

Spare Coins \$77.44



The attached QR Code can be used to directly access the online giving form for Bethel Lutheran.

Just one way of our continuing effort to modernize so you can give conveniently to Bethel.



Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson, Bill and Karen Pohlen, Carol Moon,

Community Outreach, November 2021

The Deacons have chosen for our November outreach the community Thanksgiving dinner served by the Canby Presbyterian Church. to support through our **"SPARE COINS FOR COMMUNITY"**. The turkey in the narthex is the coin drop and will "gobble" up your coins October 31st-November 14. *If you have ideas for future outreach organizations, please contact a Deacon with your idea.*

Next Sunday is All Saints Day!



We will be remembering all those who have died and who have been baptized since last November 1st. We have the names of everyone here at Bethel, but if you have a loved one who is not a member of Bethel whom you would like to be remembered, please let us know. You can email or leave a note in the office or call and leave their names. Please let us know by Thursday, Nov. 4th.

Free, Indeed?

Today the scriptures tell us that God's grace comes freely, as a gift. But is anything really free? Advertisements claiming "free" goods or services pique our attention: What's the catch? What does the small print say? Even beyond the world of commerce, we know that nothing comes without a price: time and sacrifice are required for a scholarship to college, a promotion at work, a happy marriage, a worry-free retirement. Our worthiness and success can seem to hang on our ability to perform, to do well, to get things right, to excel. Even with those closest to us—friends, coworkers, and family members—we may feel just one mistake or misstep away from losing their approval. In such a world, is God any different?

Yet before we were even born, before our first exam or job interview, before our first failure or sin, before our first fight or our first loss, Jesus Christ hung on a cross to be a sign that God's grace is free indeed. To His cross He drew every cost, every pain, every judgment, every failure—and what poured forth was only love, as pure gift. In His cross, there is no catch or small print; there is simply the divine love that has been there for us all along. This is the love of a God Who made the world and called it good. It is the love of a God who formed us and gave us life. It is the love of a God Who sees us, suffers with us, and binds up all our wounds.

Child of God, God loves you, deeply and freely. As an assembly, we are gathered by this truth. We practice it in the font and at the table, through our words and in our offerings. It calls us to always be reformed so God's grace and love may pour forth through us into the world, free of charge.

Upcoming Commemorations

All Saints Day

Monday, November 1, 2021

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed black slave from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.