

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 29, 2017

10:15 A.M.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

Prelude "A Mighty Fortress"

Luther

Welcome and Announcements

ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

* Call to Worship:

Let us worship God.

He is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust.

Let us confess with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Let us call upon our true God, believing him in our hearts, confessing him with our mouths, worshiping him in spirit and in truth. May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

* Hymn: PH 469

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

* God's Greeting:

Grace and peace be to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be God,

And blessed is his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

* Prayer of the Day:

O most holy Christ, draw me, weak as I am, after yourself, for if you do not draw us we cannot follow you. Strengthen my spirit, that it may be willing. If the flesh is weak, let your grace precede us; come between and follow, for without you we cannot go for your sake to cruel death. Give me a fearless heart, a right faith, a firm hope, and perfect love, that for your sake I may lay down my life with patience and joy. Amen.

* Response: PH 248, v. 5

"I Greet My Sure Redeemer"

CONFESSION AND PRAYER

God's Will for Our Lives:

Micah 6:6-8

Call to Confession: Reformation Litany

The first truth of the Reformation can be summarized in the phrase “sola gratia – by grace alone.” The true purpose of human life is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever. This purpose cannot be achieved through our inherent worth or effort, but only received through God’s unmerited favor, freely bestowed by God through Jesus Christ, who is the only way of salvation for all peoples everywhere. As heralds of God’s gracious love, we are called to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ throughout all the world. (*Westminster Catechism, Q&A 1*)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Rom. 3:23–24)

The second phrase or slogan is “sola fide – by faith alone.” We respond to God’s initiative in salvation through personal trust in the Redeemer. We are made right with God by faith alone, not by having our good works outweigh our bad ones. This means that we belong—body and soul, in life and in death, not to ourselves but to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who has fully paid for all our sins and makes us wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. (*adapted from Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1*)

Know that a person is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. (Gal. 2:16)

The third phrase is “sola Scriptura – Scripture alone.” God is once and for all revealed to us through the words of Scripture. The Bible is the supreme standard by which all human conduct and opinion should be tried. God has caused these words to be written with special care for us and our salvation, and everything that one must believe to be saved is sufficiently taught in it (*adapted from Belgic Confession Arts. 3 & 7*).

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that all God’s people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16–17)

The fourth conviction of the Reformers can be summarized in the phrase “Solut Christus – Christ alone.” Christ alone is our Savior. We do not rely on others to bring us to God. We need no mediator between God and us other than Jesus Christ. He is all our righteousness and our only hope. The death of God’s Son is the only and entirely complete sacrifice and satisfaction for sins; it is of infinite value and worth, more than sufficient to atone for the sins of the whole world (*adapted from Canons of Dort II, Art. 3*)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (Heb. 12:1–2)

And the final conviction of the Reformers is found in the phrase “Soli Deo Gloria – for the glory of God alone.” Since God has made all things, controls them all, and in divine love sent his Son to become the Savior of all those who will believe through the power of the Holy Spirit, this glorious Triune God alone is the one to be praised and honored. And therefore we cling to God’s gift as the one firm foundation, giving all glory to God, humbling ourselves, not claiming a thing for ourselves or our merits but leaning and resting on all that he has given us when we believe in Christ (*adapted from Belgic Confession Art. 23*).

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Rom. 11:36)

Assurance of Pardon:

Rom. 3:22, Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 21

Righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

By faith I have a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

Congregational Prayer

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

- * Hymn: PH 121 "To the Hills I Lift My Eyes"

Prayer of Illumination

[Children age 3 - grade Pre-K may leave for Children's Church after the prayer.]

Scripture Reading:

Mark 1:40–45 (p. 991)

Sermon: *Still They Came to Jesus*

Prayer

- * Hymn: PH 267, vv. 1, 2, 4 "And Can It Be"

OUR RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

- * Offertory Prayer

Offering: Fairlawn General Fund

Offertory: "Prelude in G Minor"

J. S. Bach

- * Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (Inside front cover of the Psalter Hymnal)

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

- * Benediction: Hebrews 13:7, Jude 24–25

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.... To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!
Amen.

- * Doxology: PH 170, v. 6 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home!

- * Postlude: "Triumphal March"

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