

REFORMATION SUNDAY | *On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther famously posted his 95 Theses on the church door at Wittenberg – an action which helped spark the Protestant Reformation. We are indebted to Reformers like Luther for their courageous stand for the purity of the Gospel against the civil and ecclesiastical forces of their day. Armed only with an unshakable confidence in God and his Word, many of these men were persecuted, some even giving up their lives. The liturgical color of Reformation Sunday, red, traditionally symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit and reminds us that the Reformation was truly a breaking in of the Spirit to preserve God's people.*

preparing our hearts

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

– Romans 6:1-4 ESV

** call to worship

Leader: Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely,

All: **And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,**

Leader: Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

All: **Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

– Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

Leader: We are gathered here in the unchanging Name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. Amen.

** Please stand if you are able

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

O, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of reigning sin, he sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.

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** prayer of invocation

Leader: O most holy Christ, draw us, weak as we are, after yourself, for if you do not draw us, we cannot follow you. Strengthen our 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 us a fearless heart, a right faith, a firm hope, a perfect love, that for your sake we may lay down our lives with patience and joy. Amen.

– Adapted from a letter sent by Czech reformer Jan Hus before he was burned at the stake
July 6, 1415

** affirmation of faith

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul,
Both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
And has set me free from all the power of the devil.
He also preserves me in such a way that
Without the will of my heavenly Father
Not a hair can fall from my head;
Indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.
Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life
And makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

– *The Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1*

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabbaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

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CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

– Proverbs 28:13 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: Waken our hearts, O Lord, our God; make them ever watchful to serve you and your purposes. Trouble us with the smallness of our vision and work. Trouble us with the greatness of your command to make disciples of all nations. Trouble us with your great love for sinners and our own slowness to make you our greatest love. Trouble us with the brevity of our lives and our time, talent, and treasure not invested in eternity.

Comfort us by drawing us to yourself with the cords of your unfailing mercy. Comfort us, O Lord, when we suffer and are afflicted, with the assurance of our salvation and unending glory with you. Rekindle in us a renewed desire for the coming of your glorious kingdom, when all wrongs will be made right, when everything that is broken will be made whole, and when we will trade a cross for a crown. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

– Adapted from the prayers of Martin Luther

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: Jesus said to the sick man, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

– Adapted from John 5:8-9 ESV

All: Thanks be to God.

REFORMATION SONG

Your Word alone is solid ground, the mighty rock on which we build;
In every line the truth is found and every page with glory filled.

Through faith alone we come to you; we have no merit we can claim.
Sure that your promises are true, we place our hope in Jesus' name. *

* *Chorus:*

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone; gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

In Christ alone we're justified; his righteousness is all our plea;
Your law's demands are satisfied; his perfect work has set us free. *

By grace alone we have been saved; all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved now by your pow'r have been made new. *

"Reformation Song," Music & Words: Tim Chester and Bob Kauflin.

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Leader: Romans 6:15-23
This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

prayer

An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.

Leader: All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,

**All: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

** passing the peace

Leader: Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

An elder will lead the passing of the peace. If you are joining us from your home, please unmute yourself so that you can greet one another. If you are gathered here with us today, greet one another warmly with the peace of Christ while being careful to practice safe social distancing.

Series | “The Glory of Christ in the Life of the Church”**Sermon** | “The Bad News”**November 1, 2020**

Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV | 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

1. What Is Wrong With Us

2. How Bad It Really Is

3. Where We Find Help

**** gospel charge**

Leader: In light of the Word we have heard, how ought we live?

All: **Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**

– 1 Timothy 6:12_{ESV}

WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians – a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, please wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. There are two tabs on the communion sets. The clear tab on top opens the bread. The tab underneath opens the grape juice.

Please hold on to your materials to dispose of on your way out of the sanctuary. If you have a gluten allergy, please indicate this when prompted and to your server, to receive a gluten-free wafer. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymn.

NOTE TO PARENTS: *To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

– Mark 14:22-24^{ESV}

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Hear us then, as we pray.

All: Thank you, Father, for making Christ known to us in the bread that is broken and the cup that is filled. May this meal now enable us to increase in faith, persevere in hope, and grow up in love. May this witness to Christ’s death draw others into fellowship with him so that all your children will be gathered in to share with us the joy of your salvation. Send us out from this place by your Spirit, our ears open to your Word, our minds alert to the calling you give us, our hearts full of zeal for your coming kingdom, our voices confessing the name of Jesus, our Lord and our God. Amen.

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

As the elements are distributed, sing as one body, affirming that in Christ we are united to him and to one another.

HELP MY UNBELIEF

I know the Lord is nigh, and would but cannot pray,
For Satan meets me when I try, and frights my soul away.
And frights my soul away.

I would but can't repent, though I endeavor oft;
This stony heart can ne'er relent till Jesus makes it soft.
Till Jesus makes it soft.

Chorus:

Help my unbelief. Help my unbelief. Help my unbelief.
My help must come from thee.

I would but cannot love, though wooed by love divine;
No arguments have power to move a soul as base as mine.
A soul as base as mine.

I would but cannot rest in God's most holy will;
I know what he appoints is best and murmur at it still.
I murmur at it still.

Chorus (2x):

Help my unbelief. Help my unbelief. Help my unbelief.
My help must come from thee.

"Help My Unbelief," Words: John Newton, Public Domain. Chorus: Clint Wells. Music: Clint Wells.
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As you are able, please continue to joyfully give to the work of the Lord through our church by giving [online](#) or depositing your offering in the box with the deacon.

Note: [Other ways to give](#), including mailing a check to the office, are available.

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. *

** Chorus:*

O, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done, nothing but the blood of Jesus. *

This is all my hope and peace: nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness: nothing but the blood of Jesus. *

Now by this I'll overcome, nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Now by this I'll reach my home, nothing but the blood of Jesus. *

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**** benediction**

****doxology**

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise him all creatures here below;
 Praise him above ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**