



*Reformation Day  
(Observed)*

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 2020

At Home Worship  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Closter, New Jersey

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PREPARATION

#### INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation**      **Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

**Congregation**      **O Lord, who could stand?**

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

**Congregation**      **therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

**Congregation**      **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

## **Entrance Hymn**      *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

- 1.      A mighty fortress is our God,  
A trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need  
That hath us now o'er taken.  
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are His dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.**
- 2.      With might of ours can naught be done,  
Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the valiant One,  
Whom God himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this?  
Jesus Christ it is,  
Of Sabaoth Lord, and there's none other God;  
He holds the field forever.**

**Though devils all the world should fill,  
All eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill,  
They shall not overpower us.  
This world's prince may still  
Scowl fierce as he will  
He can harm us none,  
He's judged; the deed is done;  
One little word can fell him.**

**The Word they still shall let remain  
Nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain  
With His good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life,  
Goods, fame, child, and wife,  
Though these all be gone,  
Our vic-t'ry has been won;  
The Kingdom ours remaineth.**

**KYRIE** Lord, have mercy on us; Christ have mercy on us;  
Lord, have mercy on us.

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious victory won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And with your spirit.**

Pastor Almighty and gracious Lord,  
Pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people.  
Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth,  
Protect and deliver us in times of temptation,  
Defend us against all enemies,  
And grant to Your Church Your saving peace;  
Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

## READINGS

### ***First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7***

- <sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.<sup>7</sup> And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation      Thanks be to God.**

### ***Epistle Reading:      Romans 3:19-28***

- <sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.
- <sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it---<sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,<sup>25</sup> 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.<sup>26</sup> 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.

- 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is none besides me;  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- 7 I form light and create darkness,  
I make well-being and create calamity,  
I am the LORD, who does all these things.

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation      Thanks be to God.**

***Epistle Reading:      1 Thessalonians 1:1-10***

- <sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.
- <sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,<sup>3</sup>  
remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness  
of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God,



- <sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation      Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**These things are written that you may believe**

**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter eight beginning at verse thirty-one.

**Congregation      Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

- <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.<sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

*After the reading:*

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Congregation      Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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.**

**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.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY** *Amazing Grace*

- 1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see!**
- 2. The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**
- 3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.**
- 4. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.**
- 5. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*after each portion of the prayer:*

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation hear our prayer.**

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **LITANY** (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Congregation Alleluia.**

Pastor Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*(Silence for meditation)*

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation To You, O Lord.**

Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Congregation Amen.**



Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## **LORD'S 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.**

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

## **PRAYER**

Pastor Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**Congregation Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**    *The Church's One Foundation*

- 1. The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is his new creation  
By water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her  
To be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her,  
And for her life he died.**
- 2. Elect from every nation,  
Yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation:  
One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses  
With every grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder  
This world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping;  
Their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
Shall be the morn of song.**

**Through toil and tribulation  
And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forever more;  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious  
Shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth has union  
With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won.  
O blest heavenly chorus!  
Lord, save us by your grace,  
May see you face to face.**

### **IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

We remember our nation and many nations, as terrorism remains a threat, and service in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan continues to be a danger. We pray for the safety of both soldiers and civilians in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. We pray for peace in the Mideast. We pray for God's help and protection for persecuted Christians throughout the world. We pray for victims of natural disasters throughout the world. We pray for victims of violence (and their loved ones) around the world. We pray for our nation and world as we continue in care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray for our church leaders and their loved ones, and our sister churches and their outreach: Rev. Matthew Harrison, our Synod President; Pastor Anthony Iovine, Rev. Dr. Tony Steinbronn, our District President; and the African Immigrant congregations and missions. We pray for Rev. Dan Fenco and the Camino De Fe mission, Rev. Matt and Nyssa Lytikainen and Mile Square Church in Hoboken, Rev. Matthew Hass (pastor of Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor, NJ), and Naomi Vogt (serving as a teacher in Shanghai). We pray for Rev. Bob and Kristi Roegner, missionaries in Israel. We pray for the Comfort Dog Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Old Bridge. We pray for Lutheran Hour Ministries. We pray for St. Paul's families. We pray for St. Paul's youth and their parents. We pray for St. Paul's Sunday School. We pray for St. Paul's Bible Studies. We pray for those suffering from addiction.

We pray for those serving in the military: Capt. John Beddoe, Capt. Mark Buckman, Maj. Jake Butz, Cmdr. Jeff Dermody, Brian Grotz, Rolly Jarmin, Capt. Timothy Kuppler, Cmdr. Jeffrey Morin, T. Sgt. Ruth Presto, Laura Scott, Capt. Rance Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Trainor, Lt. David West and Shane Wojnar, serving with the Armed Forces (and all who serve in the Armed Forces).

We pray for our college and graduate students: Arianna Cavalli, Valerie Costeniuc, Sam del Corral, Lauren Graesser, Megan Hamlett, Alison Keil, David Keil, Kylie Keil, Casey and Courtney Luikert, Giulia Nicolai, Matthew Rojas, Brianna Ross, Emily Sposa, Brittany and James Steindl.

We pray for help, healing and God's loving care in the lives of our loved ones: Delaney Westenhiser Doris Lange, Linda Sue Olsen; Christopher Huss; Donald Scheetz, Danielle Potocek, Pastor John and Susan Welge, Marilyn Grieco, James Steindl, Anna Zulli, Dennis Bujas, Audrey Huss, Kate Sposa, June Kuhn, Lois Lake, Fran Lelkendey, Gary Lopes, Ruth McReynolds, Gloria Rubner, and Irma Schmuck. We pray for Beau, a friend of the Henshaw family, undergoing chemotherapy for a brain tumor.

We also give God thanks for Logan Christopher Lemmo. Logan is the newborn son of Kristen (Petry) and Christopher Lemmo. Logan was born on Thursday, October 22 at 10 AM at Hackensack/Meridian Health Care North at Pascack Valley. Logan's birth weight is six pounds and ten ounces.

**ST. PAUL'S MISSION OF THE MONTH** is Mill Neck Manor Lutheran School for the Deaf.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in thankfulness for all God's blessings by Ann Cavalli.