ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS

REFORMATION SUNDAY

"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is the gift of God."

EPHESIANS 2:8



OCTOBER 25

8:00 AM & 10:45 AM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS

WELCOME! TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER!



For baptized Christians (Matthew 28:19) who have been instructed in the faith (Galatians 6:6), The Lord's Supper is our participation in the body and blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16), as the one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:17), to receive forgiveness of sin (Matthew 26:28) and to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26).

So that those who partake of the Lord's Supper do so in a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27) and not to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:29), let us each examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28):

- *Do you believe that you are a sinner? That you have sinned in thought, word and deed?*
- *Are you sorry for your sin?*
- *Do you trust that Jesus Christ gives forgiveness of sin through His Supper?*
- *Do you believe that the body and blood of Jesus are present in, with and under the bread and wine?*
- *Do you seek to lead godly lives by the power of the Holy Spirit?*

Please speak to a pastor or usher if you have questions. Gluten-free wafers are provided upon request. Non-alcoholic grape juice is provided in the center of each communion tray. Those who are not communing may come forward for a blessing from the pastor.

AS WE GATHER



Do you feel up for fireworks? Our remembrance of Reformation Day has a lot in common with American Independence Day. It is a day of proclaiming daring declarations, remembering the brave and the bold, and basking in the freedoms won for us. Martin Luther's name may come up more today than usual, but Pastor Luther would be quick to steer the attention back to Jesus. There would be no Ninety-Five Theses without Jesus' declaration "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). The boldness of the reformers was only fueled by the bravery of Christ, facing the challenge of this world's darkness on their behalf. The freedoms the church celebrates on Reformation Day were not won in the 1500s but at the cross and empty tomb "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24). So light the fireworks. Celebrate freedom. Christ sets the sinner free!

PRELUDE Allegretto *from Water Music Suite in D*
Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S

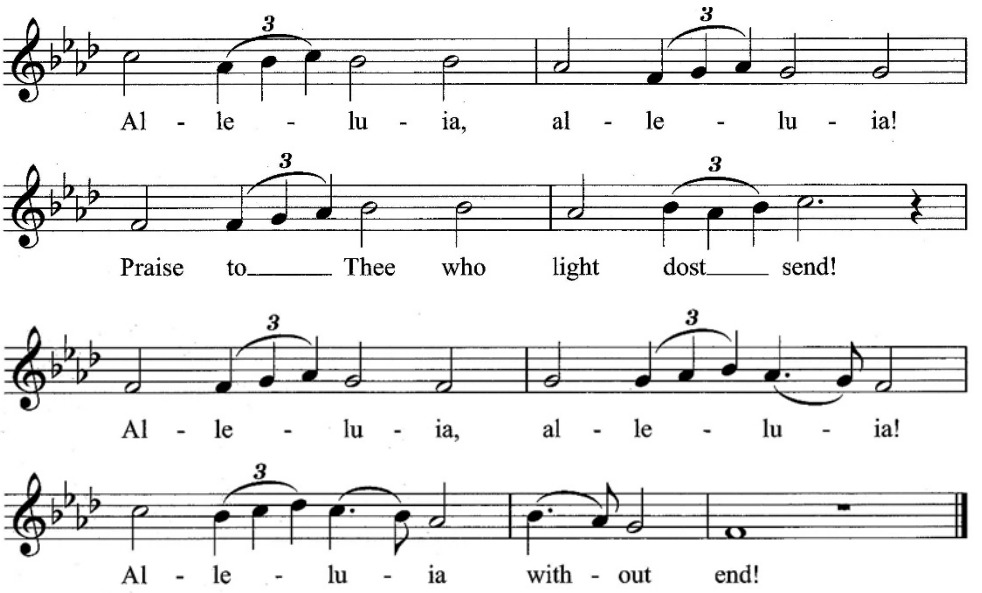
Please stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Thy Strong Word

Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76

EBENEZER
Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944
Setting by John A. Behnke (ASCAP)





Men
5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

All
6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

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INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

P God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
P Be still and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!
C **The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

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

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS

P Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

C **Almighty God, You are our mighty fortress. We resist this reality when we live according to the so-called wisdom of the world. We resist the reality that, in Christ, we are free indeed when we use our law-keeping as a measure of our standing with You. We resist the reality that You are with us when we celebrate Your works as our own. Still our selfish nature and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake. Gladden our hearts and set us free.**

P The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." This is our reality as Jesus forgives us and sets us free. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive You all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

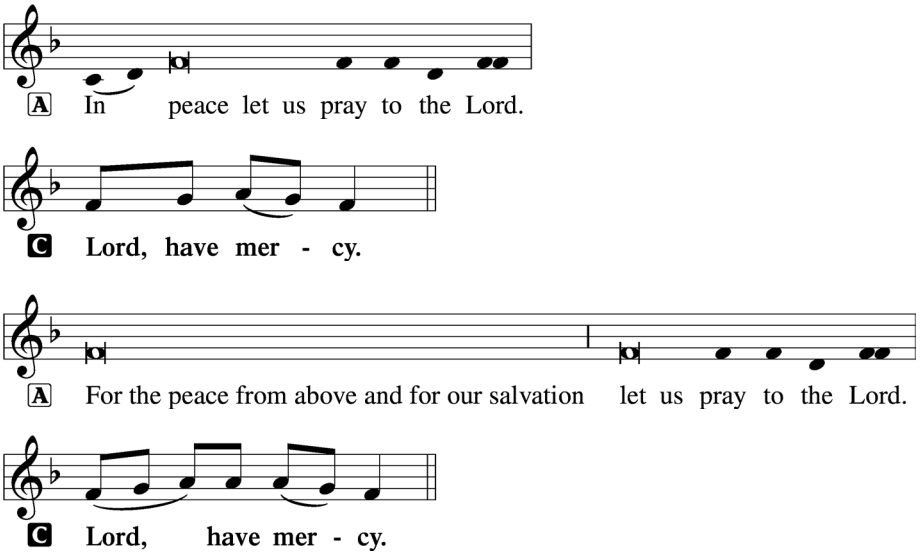
C **Amen.**

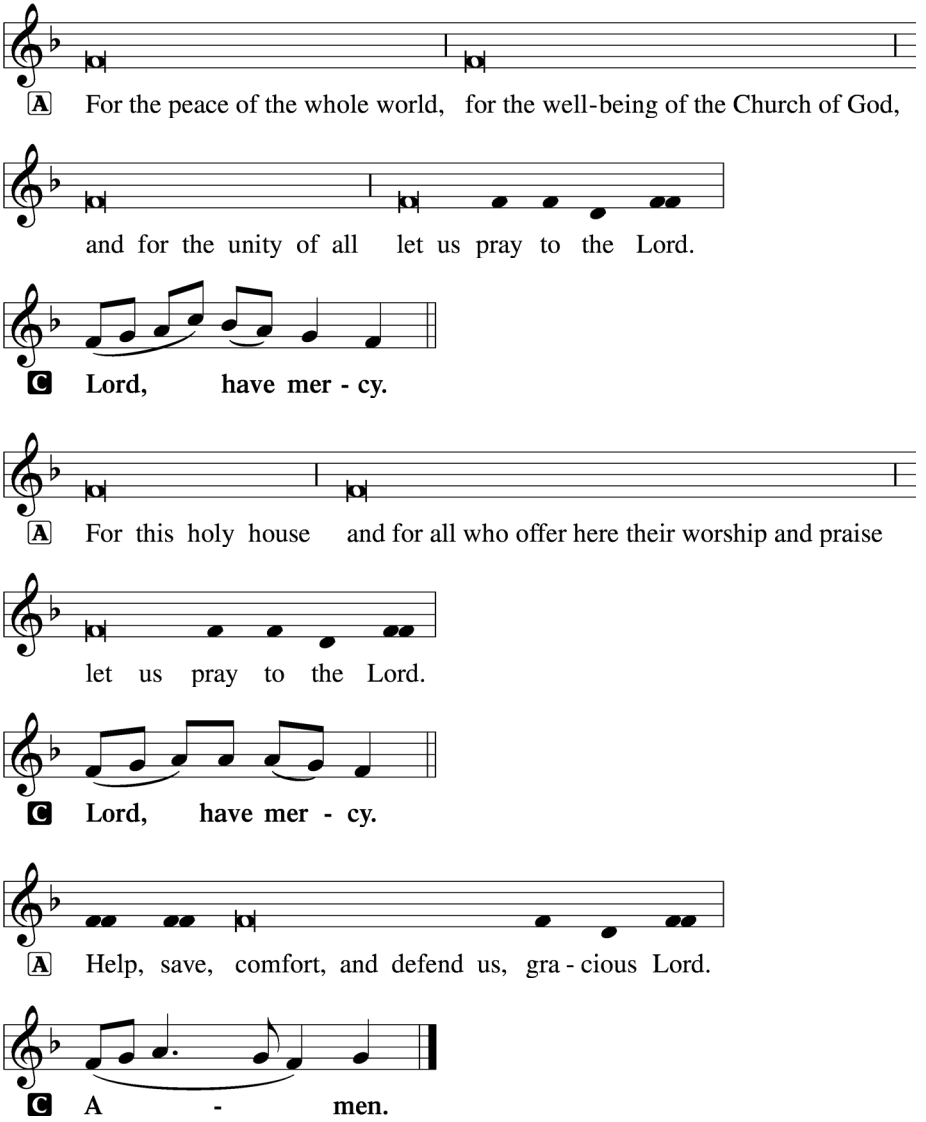
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SERVICE OF THE WORD

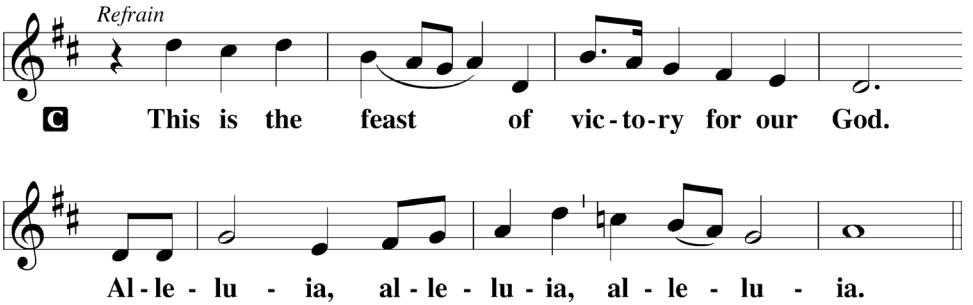
KYRIE

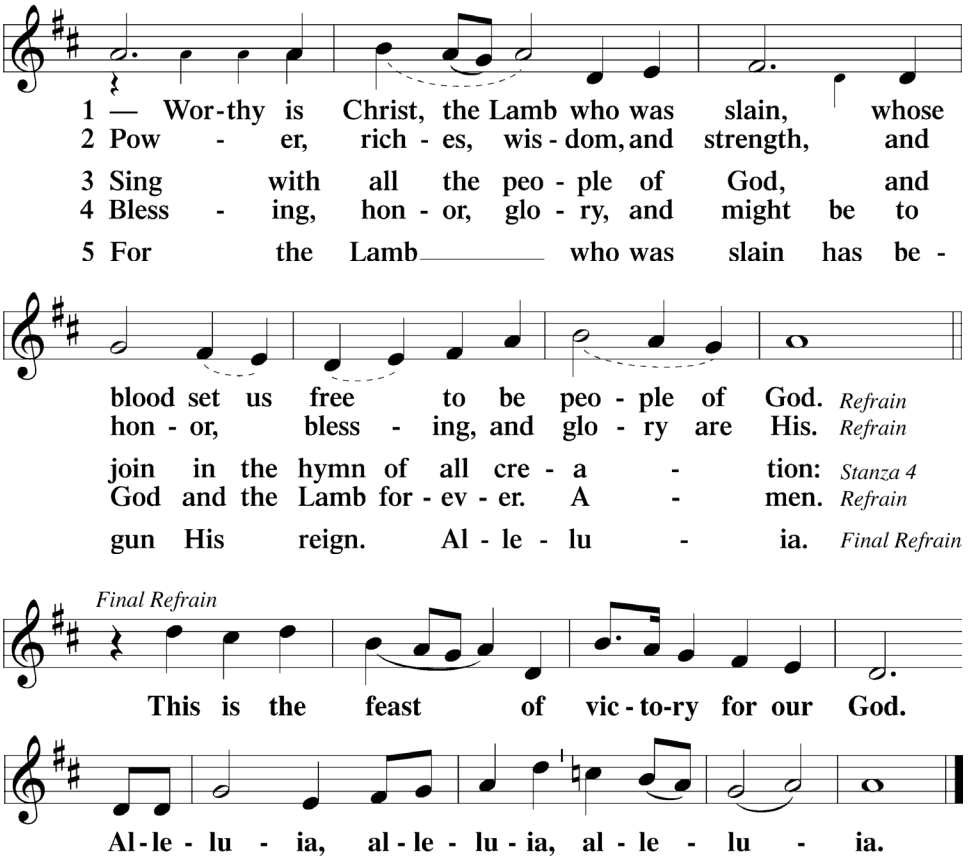
Mark 10:47





FESTIVAL CANTICLE | This Is the Feast *Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9*





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

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.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

FIRST READING

Romans 3:19–28

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 3.

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 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7



Women of the Choir

God is our ref- | uge and strength,*
a very present help in | trouble.

All

Therefore we will not fear though the | earth gives way,*
though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea,



Choir
though its waters | roar and foam,*
though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.

All
There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,*
the holy habitation of the | Most High.

Choir
God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be moved;*
God will help her when | morning dawns.

All
The nations rage, the kingdoms | totter;*
he utters his voice, the | earth melts.

Choir
The LORD of hosts is | with us;*
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

All
Come, behold the works | of the LORD,*
how he has brought desolations | on the earth.

Choir
He makes wars cease to the end | of the earth;*
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots | with fire.

All
Be still, and know that | I am God.*
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted | in the earth!"

Choir
The LORD of hosts is | with us;* the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

EPISTLE READING *Ephesians 2:1–10*

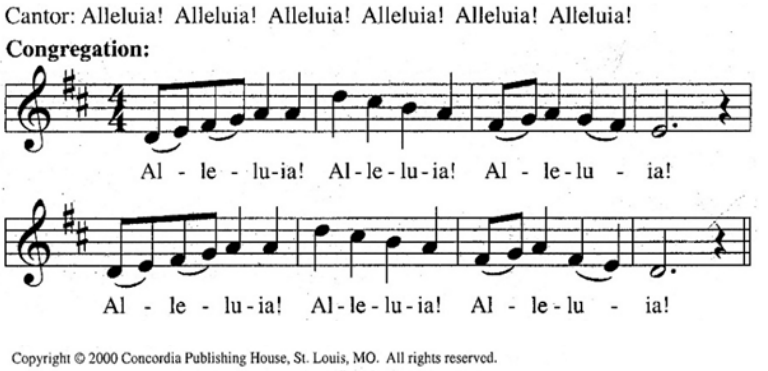
L The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 2.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 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— 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. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *John 6:68*



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THE HOLY GOSPEL *John 8:31–36*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 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'?"

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

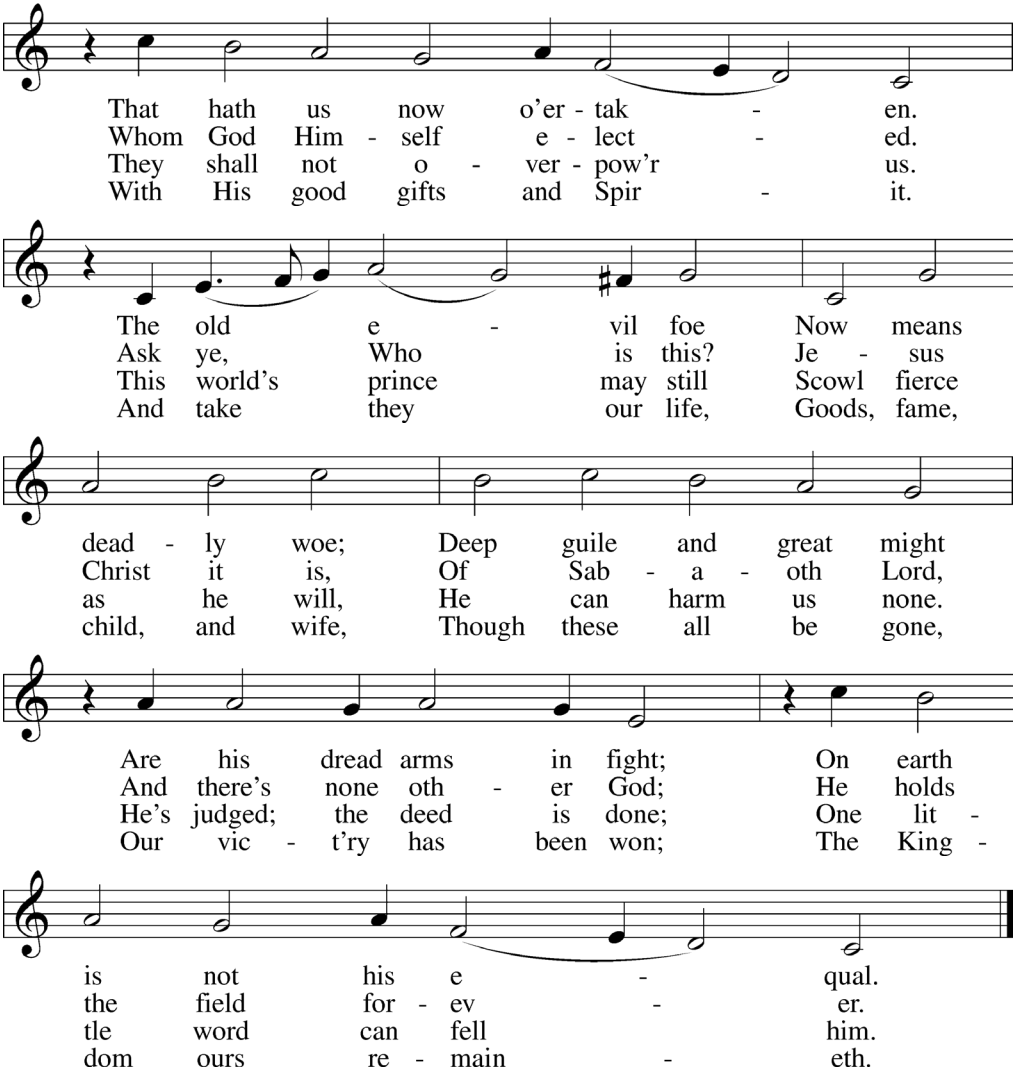
Please sit

SERMON **"When the Fortress is All You Have Left"**
Pastor Mark Stapleton

Please stand

SERMON HYMN A Mighty Fortress is Our God





NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God, begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✢ of the world to come. Amen.

Please kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Lord Jesus, You have freed us from the captivity to sin and death, from the delusion of trying to earn and maintain our own righteousness, and from the chains of condemnation and fear. That is why we rejoice in Your Word: If the Son sets you free,

C **you will be free indeed!**

P Lord Jesus, only Your mercy and grace enable us to know, find, and live in the freedom of Your eternal Gospel. Send Your Spirit upon Your Church that we

continue in the truths of the Reformation, and that, to all the peoples of the world, we proclaim this truth: If the Son sets you free,

C **you will be free indeed!**

P Lord Jesus, free us from self-centeredness and pride. Turn our focus toward You first in faith and then toward others in love. Bless all who serve You and others in their homes, in the church, in the workplace, and in our community to rejoice in knowing that if the Son sets you free,

C **you will be free indeed!**

P Lord Jesus, You proclaim freedom for the captives and recovery for those with infirmities. Grant Your healing, in both soul and body, to those we name before You, [*especially . . .*]. Rejoicing in Your healing touch, grant that all who receive Your Good News boldly say: If the Son sets you free,

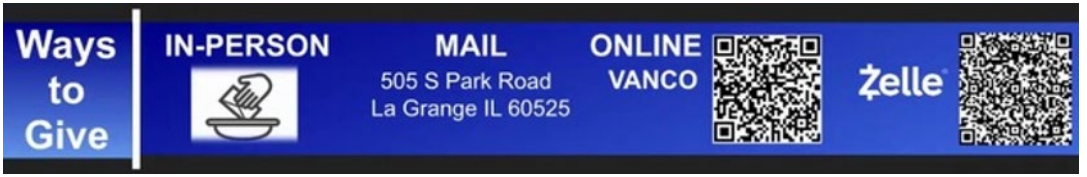
C **you will be free indeed!**

P Lord Jesus, for these and all other concerns we have, please hear and answer our prayers according to Your gracious will

C **that we live each day in the freedom we have come to know. Amen.**

Please sit

OFFERING



ANTHEM

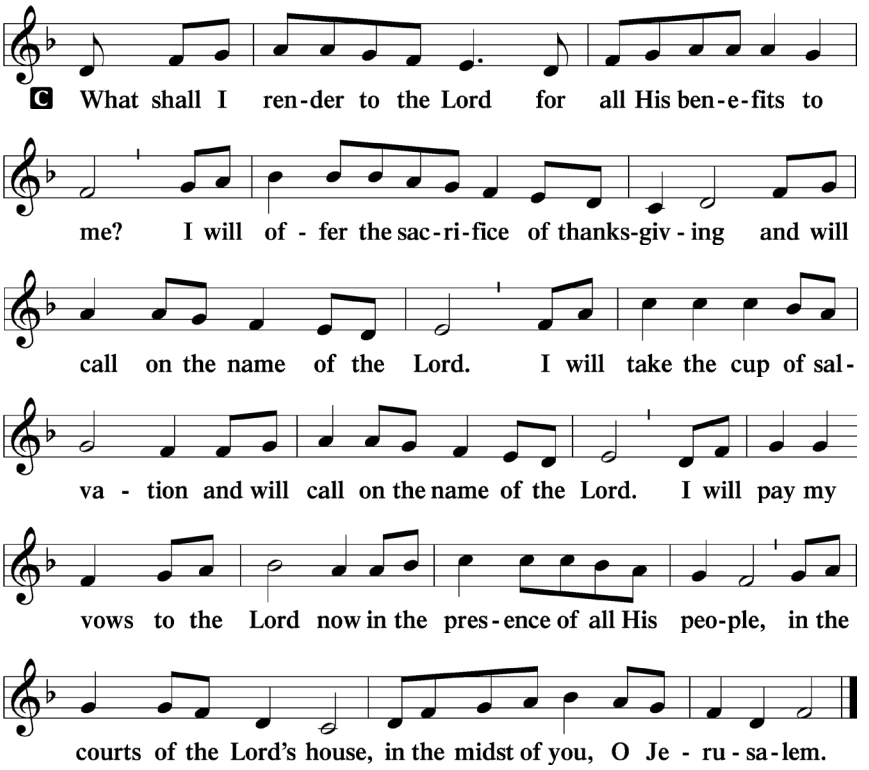
BE STILL AND KNOW

Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

Even if the mountains were to fall into the sea,
waters were to surge upon the earth,
hope still lives in a most holy place,
a place that shall not move, for I am here.
Be still and know that I am your God. - Psalm 46

Please stand

OFFERTORY *Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19*



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His

glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and

passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

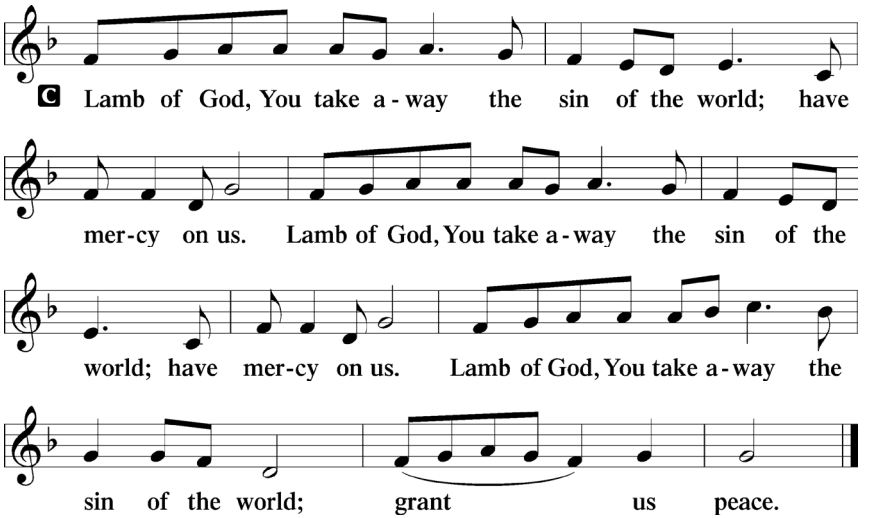
C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

AGNUS DEI *John 1:29*



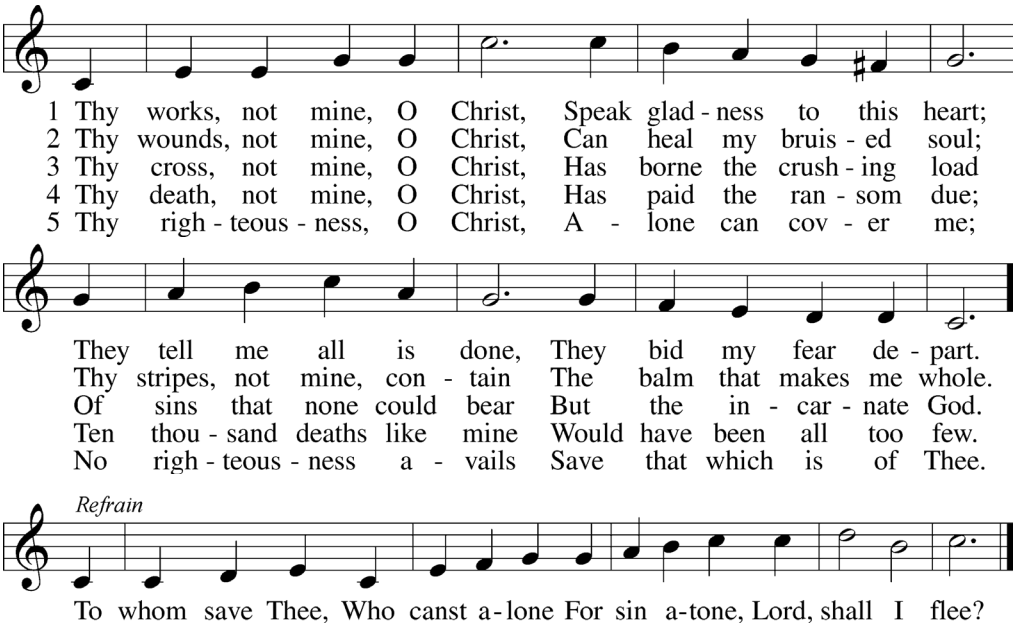
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DISTRIBUTION HYMN 947 All Glory Be to God on High



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DISTRIBUTION HYMN 565 Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ



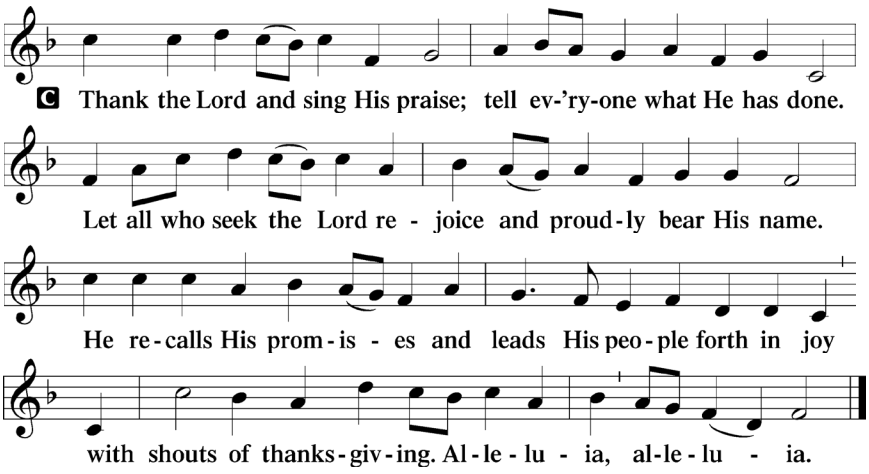
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DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C **Amen.**

THANK THE LORD *Psalm 105:1–3, 42–43; 1 Chronicles 16:8–10*



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please stand

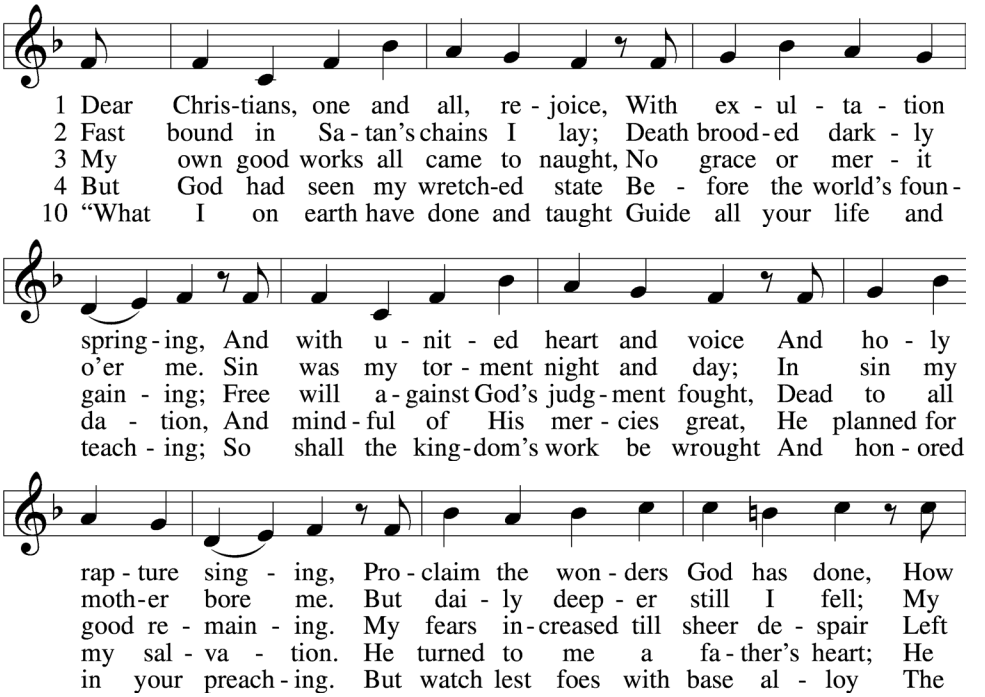
BENEDICTION

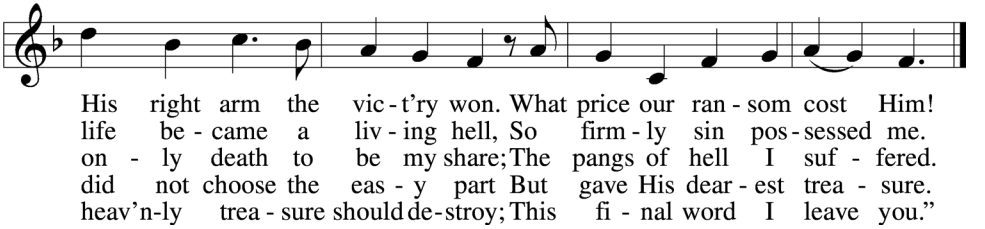
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice





Please sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

PRÉLUDE to *Te Deum*
Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist
Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist
The Cantata Choir of St. John's
Nancy Mayor, Lector | 8:00am
Kristen Stapleton, Lector | 10:45am
Holly and Sophie Hemminger, Acolytes (10:45am)

Royal Trumpet Brass Quartet
Phil Feo, Dr. Leah Schuman, *Trumpet*
Dana Solt, Noah Harstad, *Trombone*

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers at the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Jeff Baker and Beth Zeiter in celebration of the 11th birthday of their twin granddaughters, Shay and Ashland.

THE MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

The Music Ministry at St. John's is sustained entirely through the generosity of our congregation and the faithful contributions made to the Music Fund. Through your support, we are able to offer uplifting and inspirational sacred vocal and instrumental music that enriches our worship, strengthens our faith, and glorifies God.

The three pillars of Christian stewardship—**time, talent, and treasure**—are essential to the vitality and continued growth of our Music Ministry. In that spirit, the Board of Worship prayerfully invites you to consider making a contribution to the Music Fund. Your generosity enables us to continue offering music of excellence and beauty in praise of God and in service to His Church.

White Music Fund contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and gifts may also be made conveniently through our online giving options.

We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and for the important role you play in sustaining the Music Ministry of St. John's.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL NEWS

"Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

The school year is off to a great start with returning students as well as new students. The teachers are well-prepared with age appropriate and creative lessons worked into child-friendly routines. New families call weekly to inquire about enrollment at St. John's. We are so grateful to God for continuing to send us families that want their children to be at a Christ-centered school.

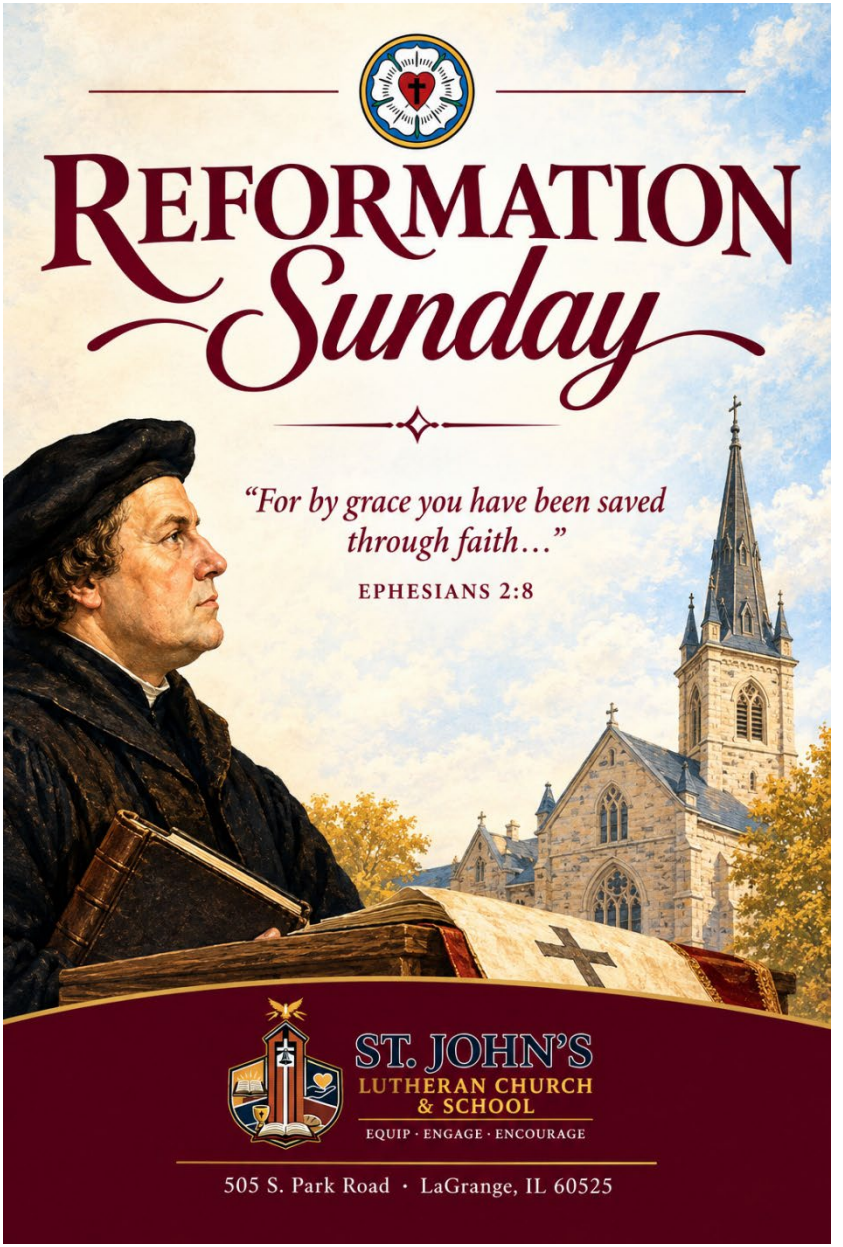
The Board of Education is thankful to all our faithful volunteers already working with Special Events, school chapel, music classes and library time. To support our growing school, please consider one or more of the following:

1) Recommend our Preschool and Kindergarten to your family, friends and neighbors.
2) Give or continue to give to the Annual Fund (goes directly to support the school.)
3) Participate in TRIP program (goes toward school scholarship fund.)
4) If you are a Thrivent client, you can direct your Choice Dollars to St. John's School by December 31st.
5) Pray for the school staff and Board of Education members, as well as more students and families that need to hear the Good News about Jesus.

The day school here at St. John's has always been a big outreach ministry of our church. Our school is smaller, but growing as our mission remains the same - teaching children and their families about the love of Jesus while providing excellent academic education with a Christian worldview.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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EQUIPPING
them with God's Word through Christian Education
ENGAGING
them in Worship and Fellowship
ENCOURAGING
them to serve and love more like Jesus
ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS