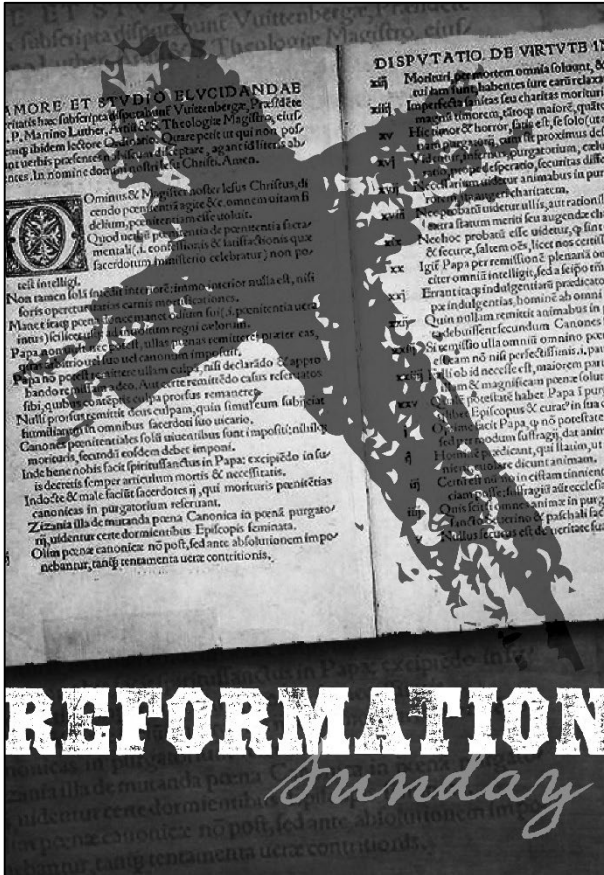


# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Reformation Sunday

October 27, 2024

**REFORMATION SUNDAY**



*Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Kneel*

**P:** Gracious God

**C:** have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us  
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first  
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,  
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**P:** God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven.

**C:** Amen.

Stand

The Congregation turns to follow the processional cross.

**GATHERING HYMN**

**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God** ..... LBW 229

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P**: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C**: And also with you.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

Sung in unison

☐ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was  
 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.  
 ☐ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and  
 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.  
 ☐ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and  
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for- ev - er. A - men.

**C** This is the feast of vic- to- ry for our God. Al- le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **||** For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

**C** This is the feast of vic- to- ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P**: Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**: Amen

*Sit*

**WORD****FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

**A**: A Reading from Jeremiah:

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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. <sup>34</sup>No 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.

**A**: The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



JEREMIAH 31:33

**PSALM: Psalm 46***The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*

The LORD of hosts is with us; the  
God of Ja - cob is our strong - hold.

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*

<sup>1</sup>God is our ref- | uge and strength,  
a very present | help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters | rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,  
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the | break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of | hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields  
with fire.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the  
earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of | hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R

**SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28**

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

**A:** A Reading from Romans:

<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 silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom 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; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

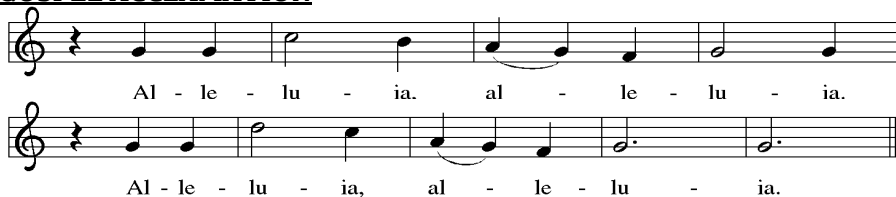
**C:** **Thanks be to God**

*Stand*

*The Gospel is carried into the midst of the people as a reminder that Christ is present among us. Please face the processional cross.*



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**CANTOR:** If you continue in my word, you are truly | my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will | make you free.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias

**GOSPEL: John 8:31-36**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the Eighth chapter.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit*

**SERMON**.....**Pastor Amme**





Stand

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and  
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of  
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from  
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,  
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er  
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter  
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.  
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.  
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*A brief silence is held after the introduction.*

**P:** Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

*After each petition:*

**P:** God of grace,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

**C:** **Amen**

**PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you. **R:** Peace be with you.

Sit

***MEAL***

**OFFERING**

*The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

**ANTHEM**

***Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)..... arr. James Koerts***

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray:

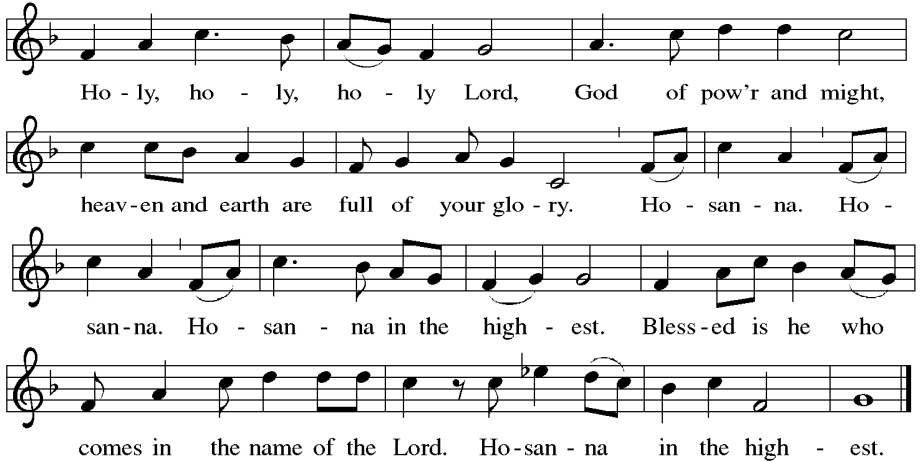
**C:** Blessed are you, O God,  
 source of every gift of your creation.  
 By these gifts and with our lives,  
 help us to serve one another and all in need,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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.

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P:** Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
 that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
 but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared  
 for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
 that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
 as he comes to us in his holy supper.

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

**P:** In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Jesus welcomes you to this table.  
Come, here is your God.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

*All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table.*

*As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:*

**The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.**

*The communicant may say: Amen*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

***The Church's One Foundation..... LBW 369***

*Stand*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and  
keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen

### **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**



**C** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re- calls his prom- is - es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks- giv - ing. Al- le - lu - ia. Al- le - lu - ia.

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A:** Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen

### ***SENDING***

### **BLESSING**

**P:** God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✠ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.

**C:** Amen

*The congregation turns to face the processional cross.*

**SENDING HYMN**

*The Church of Christ, in Every Age.....LBW 433*

**DISMISSAL**

**A**: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**C**: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**



<b>Service Assistants</b>	
<b>USHERS</b>	Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Arch Watkins, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner
<b>LAY ASSISTANT</b>	Susan Bryan
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Candy Watkins
<b>ACOLYTE/CRUCIFER</b>	Jonathan Hess
<b>TORCHBEARERS</b>	Jordan Morris, Doriann Morris
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Rita Strickler, Carol Winter
<b>GREETERS/COMM. PRESENTERS</b>	Dan and Kathy Rasdorf
<b>CANTOR</b>	Bob Schweppenheiser
<b>FLOWER DELIVERY</b>	Charles Luppert

**IN BLESSED MEMORY**

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dwain Butt with love from his family.



## Announcements

**Welcome to Messiah Church!** It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

**The Missional Outreach Committee** is looking for volunteers to help with "Hearts that Care", a part of the Seasoned Helpers Ministry. This committee will do occasional wellness checks, home/hospital visits, provide transportation if needed. If you are interested in this mission please sign up on the sign-up sheet provided in the Narthex, please take note, this is not an every day occurrence. You are not required to be available 24/7. For more information call the church office.

**Please join us on Wednesday evenings** at 6:30 pm for Bible Study and Fellowship. *All are welcome!*

**Official Notice is hereby given of the Annual Congregation Meeting** to be held on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be held immediately after worship. Please plan on attending.

**The nominees for Congregation Council 2025** are Joanie Jackson, Al Cole and Ron Yeagle. Any voting member may now make Nominations-at-Large. These nominations must contain written assurance that the nominee will serve if elected. Contact Sue Christ, Sherri Holtzman or Larry Solomon with nominations by October 27. *No nominations will be accepted from the floor of the annual meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.*

**The Advent Kids in Mission** will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> and as always, we'll need some help. If you are able to help please let me know. More information will follow. Thank you for your support. Kathryn Pratt 570-244-6964

### **White Gifts & Christmas Food Basket Project has begun!**

Recipients of white gifts and food baskets are now being identified. If you know a family that could benefit from receiving white gifts or a food basket, please contact the church office by Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING**  
**JARED GIST, ORGANIST**

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702  
(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

### **The Truth That Is Freeing**

Two key words are in today's gospel reading. These words are simple but profound, and not always easy to understand: "truth" and "free."

*Truth* is a word that has become questioned, disputed, and suspect. Many news sources and social media memes promote a distorted truth to try to confuse or mislead others. How do you know which sources to believe? What counts as truth now?

Jesus said that the truth will make you free. Even if we figure out what counts as truth, do we understand what it means to be free? We commonly think of freedom as being free from some obligation or limit others impose on us. We value individual autonomy and don't want anyone else to tell us what to do. While this kind of freedom is important in the civil realm, it is far from the freedom of Jesus.

So how do we put these two seemingly simple but complex words together and understand what Jesus means? In John's gospel, the word "truth" is not abstract; it is the reality of God revealed in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Truth is knowing God through Jesus, and therefore knowing God as sacrificial love. This is the truth that sets us free. If we know God as revealed in Christ, then we know what true freedom is: freedom to love as God loves.

Martin Luther famously captured this truth when he said, in "The Freedom of a Christian" (1520), that Christians are truly free, subject to no one. And at the same time, Christians are servants of others called to love and care for them. This is the freedom we need and long for: freedom within a community of love. Jesus makes it possible for us by setting us free from having to become good enough for God to love us. God's love is the truth of the cross: extravagant, self-giving, and sure. We are truly free to love when we live in the love of God offered by Jesus.

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