

OCTOBER 29, 2017

REFORMATION SUNDAY



Beckwith Hills Christian Reformed Church

2100 Chelsea Road NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505
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Luther's Chorale Service

Worship at the time of the Reformation has many familiar elements that we know in worship today. Our service will be "In the Spirit" of Luther's Chorale Service. Traditionally, the entire service was sung (including the sermon). Martin Luther encouraged singing for two reasons:

1st the Catholic Church at that time, the congregation was "an observer" of the mass.

2nd a "unified voice to God" would be best achieved by singing.

GATHERING

**Indicates standing, as you are able, in body or in spirit.*

Prelude

*Opening Hymn: *Blessed Jesus, At Your Word*

Lift Up Your Hearts #763

*God's Greeting

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

And also with you.

*Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

*Hymn of Response: *All Glory Be To God on High*

Lift Up Your Hearts #542

*Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Song, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Old Testament Reading

The First Lesson is from Genesis 15:1-5

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Here ends the reading.

Psalm 46—*God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength*

Lift Up Your Hearts #432

St. 1: all

St. 2: women

St. 3: all

St. 4: men

St. 5: all

Epistle Reading

The Second Lesson is from Romans: 1:16-17; 3:22-28

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 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. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Here ends the reading.

*Gospel Acclimation: *O Word of God Incarnate*

Lift Up Your Hearts #757:1

**O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise you for the radiance that from the Scripture’s page,
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

*Gospel Reading

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 7:15-23

Glory to you, O LORD.

Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*Acclimation Response: *O Word of God Incarnate*

Lift Up Your Hearts #757:2,3

**The church from you, dear Master, received this gift divine;
And still the light is lifted o’er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass that all life’s voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands, still guides, O Christ, to you.**

**O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations your true light as of old.
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended, we see you face to face.**

Sermon—*Sola Fide*

A moment of silence for reflection.

RESPONSE

*Hymn of the Day: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Lift Up Your Hearts #776

*Apostle’s Creed

Let us express our unity with the church of all ages by professing our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering—*Home Missions (CRCNA)*

Please pass the friendship folders.

Offertory

*Hymn of Thanksgiving: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**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.**

Prayers of God's People

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

(after each petition)

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, Hear our prayer.

God of Compassion, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy now and forever.

Amen.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

*God's Blessing

*Closing Hymn: *Now Thank We All Our God*

Lift Up Your Hearts #543

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
To keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven—
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

*Dismissal

Go in Peace to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Preaching: Rev. Rick Pinckney
Scripture Reader: Carol Couwenhoven
Audio: Dave Ronda

Organist: Kevin Soodsma
Prayers: Bev Vanderwell
video: Ben Vanderwell