





Serving the Portland Area with the Means of Grace and as a family of believers for over 110 years... as a church, school, preschool, mission, and ministry.



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Reformation Sunday – October 31st, 2021 Welcome!

Grace ~ "I am not ashamed of the gospel..."

When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

Grace - "These are written that you may believe..."



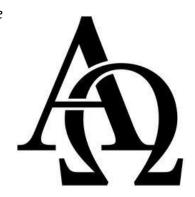
Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for over 100 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God's Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

Grace ~ "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God's grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen." II Peter 3:18

THE SEASON OF END TIME: The Church Year comes a close in November with the season of End Time. In this season, we are reminded that we are living in the "last days" between Christ's first coming at Christmas and his second coming on Judgment Day. The Alpha and Omega reminds us that our God is eternal... the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Our time is in His hands. The world could be ended at any time. For a believer, the end of his life or the end of the world is a wonderful thing! It means the beginning of a new and better existence in a much more glorious world than this one.



THE REFORMATION: On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses—statements for debate—on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, beginning a spiritual and historical movement known as the Reformation. The Reformation did not just change the face of Europe; it restored the gospel to the church. It gave God's Word to the people. As we celebrate the Reformation, we are not honoring the man for whom our church body is named. We are thanking God for his grace which he has demonstrated through the generations—preserving the church and setting us free.



OUR THEME FOR TODAY: Five Latin phrases emerged during the Reformation to summarize the Reformers' theological convictions about the essentials of Christianity. Sola Scriptura, which means the Bible alone is our highest authority; Sola Fide, which means we are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ; Sola Gratia, which means we are saved by the grace of God alone; Soli Deo Gloria, which means we live for the glory of God alone; and Solus Christus, which means Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King. On this, our celebration of the Reformation, we are reminded why the focus of our worship and life is Christ Alone.



▼ Gathering **▼**

INVOCATION & OPENING DIALOGUE

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That has us now o'ertaken.
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.

M: Blessing and honor and glory and power be unto the One who sits on the throne,

C: And to the Lamb, forever and ever.

M: His blood sets us free to be the people of God.

THE HYMN

With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected. But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected. You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is, The almighty Lord. And there's no other God; He holds the field forever.

CW #200 (2): "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

CW #200 (1): "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

M: Jesus' death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. He said to his people, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life!

THE HYMN

CW #200 (3): "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpow'r 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.

M: Fight the good fight of faith!

C: For the Lord, the righteous Judge, has laid up for us a crown of life.

M: For us, and for all who await his appearing.

THE HYMN

CW #200 (4): "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

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 do what they will --Hate, steal, hurt, or kill Though all may be gone, Our victory is won;
The kingdom's ours forever!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on 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 Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

▼ The Word **▼**

THE FIRST LESSON Joshua 24:14-24

Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)

¹⁴ Joshua said, "Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully. Remove the gods that your fathers served in the region across the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if you see no benefit in serving the LORD, then choose for yourselves today whomever you will serve—whether the gods that your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household—we will serve the LORD!"

¹⁶ The people responded by saying, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD in order to serve other gods! ¹⁷ For the LORD our God, he is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, where we were slaves. He is the one who performed these great signs right before our eyes and protected us on the whole journey that we made and among all the peoples through whom we passed. ¹⁸ The LORD drove out of our presence all the peoples and the Amorites who were living in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God!"

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD, because he is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and you serve foreign gods, then he will turn and cause disaster for you, and he will put an end to you after he has done good for you."

²¹ But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will most certainly serve the LORD!"

²² So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves in order to serve him."

The people said, "We are witnesses!"

²³ Joshua said, "Now, therefore, remove the foreign gods that are among you, and turn your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel."

²⁴ The people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God, and we will listen to his voice."





God is our refuge and strength,* an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way* and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam*
and the mountains quake with their surging.

Refrain

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,*
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;*
God will help her at break of day.

"Be still, and know that I am God;"

I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,* is now, and will be forever. Amen.

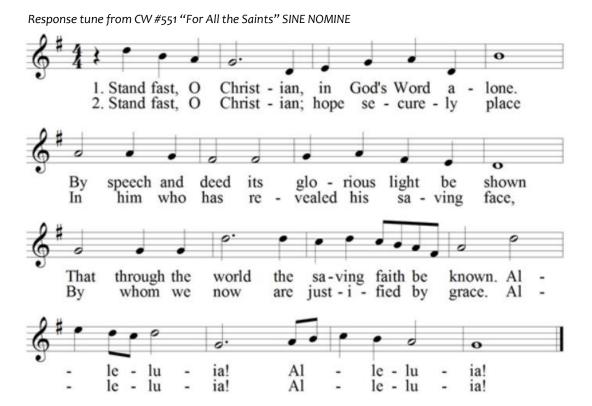
Refrain

Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)

¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! ¹⁸ And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

VERSE OF THE DAY Romans 8:1-2

M: Alleluia. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. Alleluia.



Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)

CWS #752: "In Christ Alone"

¹⁶ "Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you. ²¹ "Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. ²² You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. ²³ And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song; This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone—who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save. Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied; For ev'ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain; Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave he rose again! And as he stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me. For I am his and he is mine—Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the pow'r of Christ in me; From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand; Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand. ¹⁵ He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

The Te Deum Laudamus

"You, God, We Praise"

Using tune THAXTED

Martin Luther held up the "Te Deum" alongside the three great creeds as a confession of the Christian faith. In singing the "Te Deum," we reflect our ancient heritage.



¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.



▼ Thanksgiving **▼**

THE OFFERING

An opportunity to give online can also be used at Paypal.me/GracePortland or by utilizing this QR code:



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Based on Luther's prayer at the Diet of Worms (1521) as he faced the papal and imperial authorities

- M: Almighty, eternal God, out of the depths we call to you. The world opens its mouth to swallow your church, and our faith in you is too small to confront its lures and attractions!
- C: We confess the weakness of our sinful flesh. Satan deceives us daily. If we are to depend upon any strength from ourselves, all is lost. Help us, we beg, to withstand the ungodly way of life that the world has to offer.
- M: The work is not ours, O God, but yours. O Sovereign Lord and Creator, we have no way to satisfy your righteousness, nothing to contest the Deceiver's earthly power, nothing to mute its false attractions, nothing to uproot the rule of our sinful flesh.
- C: We would gladly pass our days in happiness and peace in an age awash with iniquity. Hear us, heavenly Father, for the cause is yours. Yes, Creator of all that is, your cause is righteous and everlasting. Vindicate your name among the nations!
- M: O all-seeing Lord, have mercy on your church. You understand our plight. We thank you for sending a messenger of peace to correct the times between life and death. This One is your Son, Jesus the Christ, the incarnate Savior, who saves us from calamities that plague your church.
- C: You have chosen us to do your work. Therefore, O God, accomplish it by your will. Stand by your church each day in the name of Jesus, who is our shelter and shield, our mighty fortress. Through the strength of the Holy Spirit, such faith works joy and peace and willingness to serve a world in need.
- M: In the confidence of this faith, gracious Lord, bless our efforts to spread the gospel of the glory and grace of God throughout the world to the joy and edifying of all who hear and believe and for your glory and our good.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

THE 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.

▼ The Sacrament of Holy Communion **▼**

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who has called us to be his own that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

HYMN:

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword Would seek to overthrow your Son And to destroy what he has done.

O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth. Support us in our final strife, And lead us out of death to life.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread: and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Thank you for honoring our practice of "close" communion. The Bible teaches that participating in the Lord's Supper is an expression of complete unity of faith (1 Cor. 10:17). We lovingly ask, therefore, that before joining in this, the highest act of fellowship, a unity of faith based on the Bible be established through membership in this congregation or in a sister congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We are most eager for you to join us in the unity of faith and confession we enjoy.

DISTRBUTION HYMN: Using tune CW #293

Our high, majestic God and Lord, - the heav'ns cannot contain you, And yet you tell us in your Word: "I dwell in you, sustain you." Though reason cannot see - this wondrous mystery

Your Word our trust has won. Let this same grace be shown, Throughout all generations.

In ages past King Solomon, before God's people Isr'ael
Confessed what you for them had done - when you gave them the Temple.
There they would always find a Father, gracious, kind,
Who would a Savior send, all woes of sin to end - through many, many ages.

So you, through all these many years - great grace to us have granted.
Your glorious gospel filled our ears - through church and school here planted.
So let it ever be that we may ever see,
Your perfect, boundless love, and reach your home above, With all your true believers.

Our Lord, we magnify and praise - your faithfulness unbroken; For you have kept through all our days - each promise you have spoken. Forsake us not, we pray; preserve us in your way! As you our fathers led, so shall it here be said: "He keeps us safe forever!"

O Lord, let this your little flock, Your name alone confessing, Continue in your loving care, True unity possessing. Your sacraments, O Lord, And your saving Word To us e'er pure retain. Grant that they may remain, Our only strength and comfort.

Help us to serve you evermore, With hearts both pure and lowly
And may your Word, that light divine, Shine on in splendor holy
That we repentance show, In faith ever grow.
The pow'r of sin destroy, And evils that annoy. Oh, make us faithful Christians.

And for your gospel let us dare, To sacrifice all treasure;
Teach us to bear your blessed cross, To find in you all pleasure.
Oh, grant us steadfastness - In joy and distress.
Lord, for your mercy's sake, Let us by grace partake Of endless joy and glory.

God's Word is our great heritage, and shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age - shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure - throughout all generations.

CLOSING HYMN:



