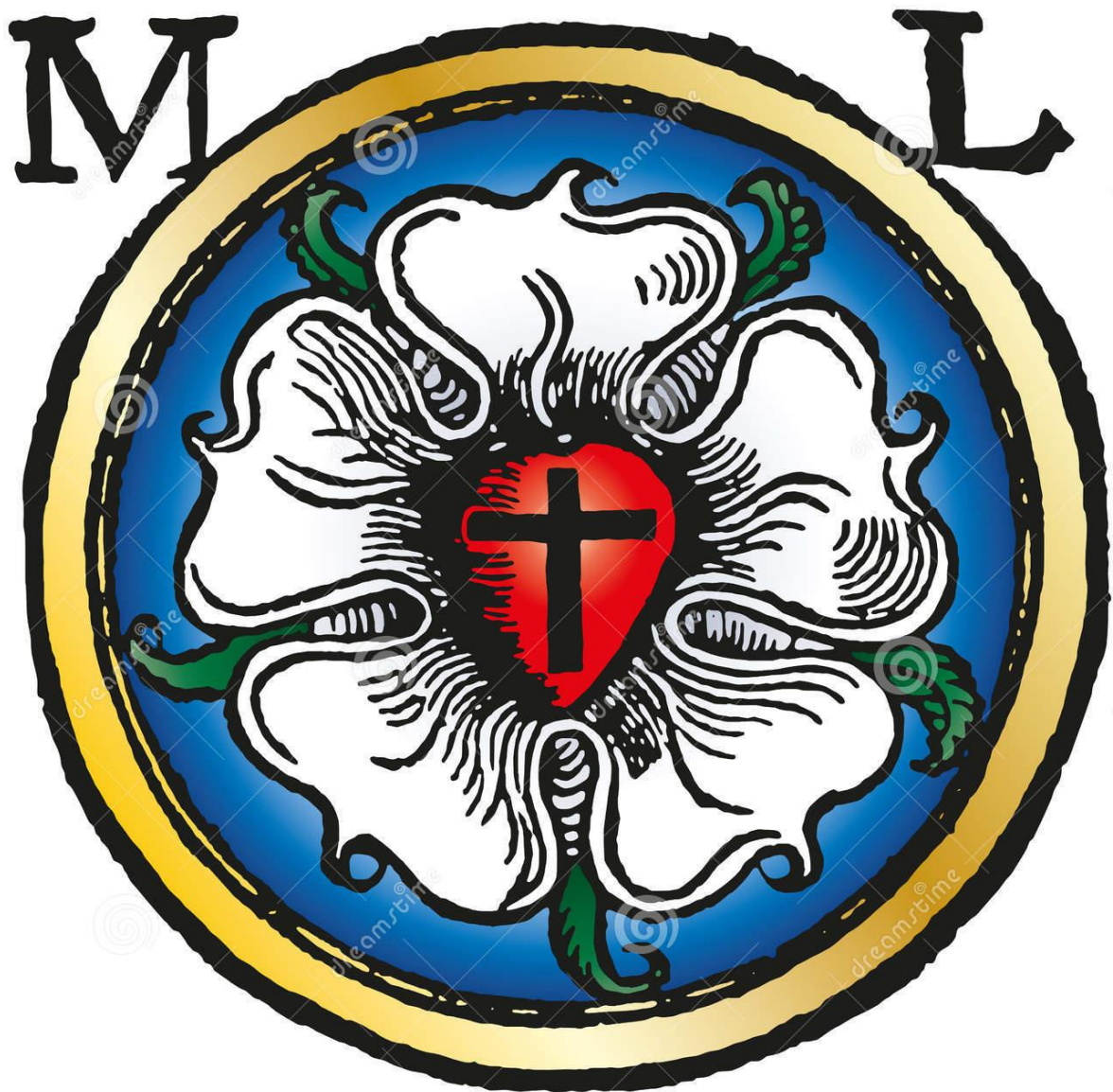


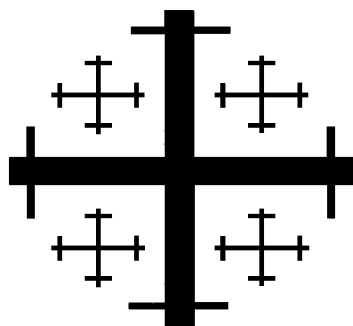
# Reformation Sunday

26 October 2025

9:30 am



# The Liturgy at Calvary



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.

## Prelude *Toccata on "Ein feste Burg"*

Tune: Martin Luther (1483-1546) Setting: Craig Penfield c. 2018

## Entrance ELW 511

### Thy Strong Word



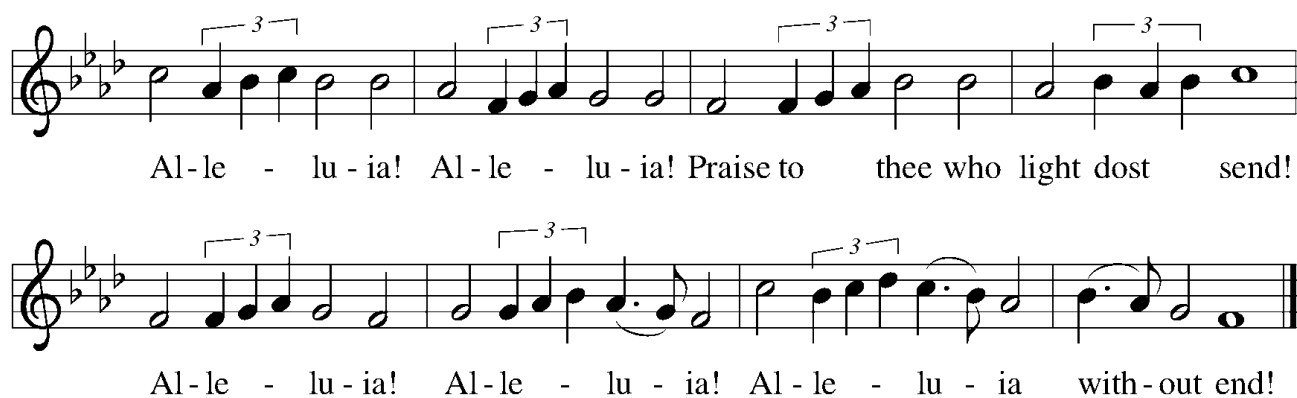
1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy  
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as  
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with  
4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speaking it was done. For created light we  
night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -  
thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward  
forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.  
beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.

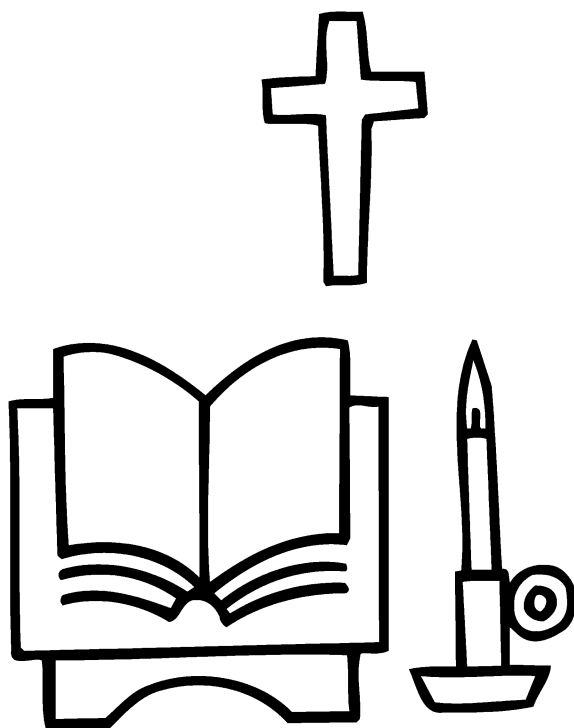


Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976  
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944  
 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

## 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.



## Kyrie Eleison [*Greek, Lord, Have Mercy*]

### All

Musical score for the 'All' part, first system. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chords indicated above the staff are Cmi, G, Cmi, Fm, and G.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

### Cantor

Musical score for the 'Cantor' part, first system. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: For peace in the world, for the health of the church for the un - i - ty of all;

For peace in the world, for the health of the church for the un - i - ty of all;

### All

Musical score for the 'All' part, second system. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chords indicated above the staff are Cmi, G, Cmi, Fm, and G.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

### Cantor

Musical score for the 'Cantor' part, second system. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for Spir - it kind - led love;

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for Spir - it kind - led love;

### All

Musical score for the 'All' part, third system. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chords indicated above the staff are Cmi, G, Cmi, Fm, and G.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

## Hymn of Praise

### A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



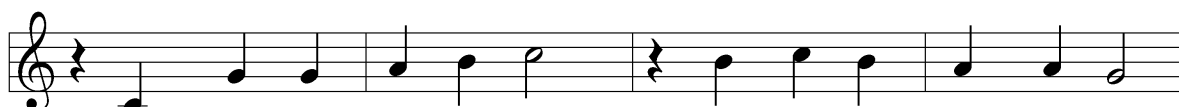
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978  
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

## **Prayer of the Day**

P The Lord be with you

**C And also with you**

P Let us pray... Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen**

## **First Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<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.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 46**

***A Mighty Fortress* is Martin Luther’s setting of Psalm 46.**

## **Second 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 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.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia Verse/Gospel Acclamations

Hal - le hal - le hal - le lu - jah!

Hal - le hal - le hal - le lu - jah!

hal - le hal - le ha - le lu - jah!

jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

**Verse (Sung by Choir) You are my disciples, continue in my Word. Know the Truth that sets you free!**

Hal - le hal - le hal - le lu - jah!

Hal - le hal - le hal - le lu - jah!

hal - le hal - le ha - le lu -

jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8th 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 Our Lord

**C Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Sermon** Pr. Kyle

*Silent Reflection*



## Hymn of the Day

### Drawn to the Light



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the  
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one  
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the

heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be  
dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -  
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -

lost, we were drawn to the light of God.  
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.  
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

*Refrain*

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the

light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a

sight to be drawn to the light of God.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937. Music:

LA CROSSE, John C. Ylvisaker. Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker.

## Creed

A Let us profess our faith in the Triune God.

**All 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

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

Instrumental Intro

In the si-lence Lord, Hear our prayer.

In the still-ness Lord, Hear our prayer.

Our spo-ken words, our si-lent thoughts:

these we hum-bly share.

In this mo-ment Lord, Hear our prayer.

*after each prayer petition*

- A Lord in your mercy,  
**C Hear our prayer.**

*prayers conclude with*

- P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our  
Lord  
**C Amen**

## Peace

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C And also with you.**

## Offertory

**Grace Viktor Andersson [2014]**  
**Sanctuary Choir**  
**Kelsey Helton, *tenor sax***  
**Christy Gibson, *flute***

Grace, God's blest gift of new life.  
What joy! What bliss! What true rapture!  
Through bread and wine His presence known.  
Christ died! Christ Rose! Christ lives!  
Come Lord Jesus, we adore you.  
Fill our hearts with you love.  
Rejoice, singing, Hallelujah.

Grace, blest Baptismal water  
Reborn from death into new life.  
Sealed with Christ's sign of sacrifice.  
Christ died! Christ Rose! Christ lives!  
Blessed bread broken become body.  
Christ's sweet feast of grace.  
Rejoice, singing, Hallelujah.

Grace!  
Sweet grace.  
Sweet blessed Grace.



## Two Ways to Give

{ Download the new  
"Vanco Mobile" giving app  
from your smart phone's app store

Give online  
through this QR code  
Use smart phone camera; click link



G C<sup>2</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>2</sup>  
 We lift our voices. We lift our hearts, we lift our  
 F C 3 Dm<sup>7</sup> G C<sup>2</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>  
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer- ing. Lord, use our voices. Lord, use our  
 C<sup>2</sup> F C 3 Dm<sup>7</sup> F G<sup>7</sup>  
 hearts. Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer- ing.  
 Em<sup>7</sup> Asus Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup>sus E D E Am  
 All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be we  
 Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>2</sup> B<sup>b</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>  
 give to you, we give to you.  
 G C<sup>2</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>2</sup>  
 We lift our voices we lift our hearts, we lift our  
 F C<sup>2</sup> 3 Dm<sup>7</sup> G 3 C  
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer- ing. We are an of-fer- ing.

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our- selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## 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 our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and good that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, Holy God mighty and immortal through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who on this day broke the bonds of death opening to us the way of everlasting life and giving us a foretaste of the feast that is to come.

And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn

## Sanctus & Benedictus *[Latin, Holy & Blessed]*

You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er - more

than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.

Bless-ed are you com-ing near. Bless-ed are you com-ing here.

to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are ho- ly, you are whole- ness,

you are pres- ent. Let the cos-mos praise you, Lord!

Sing ho- san- na in the high- est!

Sing ho -san - na! Sing ho -san - na to our God!

Music: Per Harling © 1990 Tom Vis Productions, AB, admin Augsburg Fortress

## Eucharistic Prayer

### *Eucharistic Acclamation*

We pro-claim your death, Lord; we cel - e - brate your ris - ing; we

break this bread and share this\_ cup un - til you come a - gain.

P Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray

**All 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**

P Body of Christ given for you. Blood of Christ shed for you.

### **Agnus Dei** [*Latin, Lamb of God*]

#### **Codero de Dios** *Lamb of God*



O Lamb of .. God, you.. take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy up - on us, \_ have mer - cy up - on us.

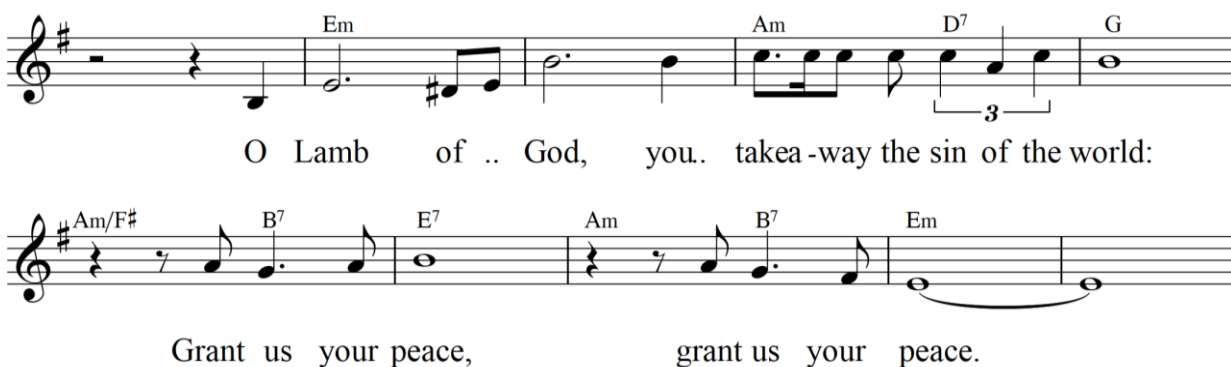


O Lamb of .. God, you.. take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy up - on us, \_ have mer - cy up - on us.





O Lamb of .. God, you. takea-way the sin of the world:  
Grant us your peace, grant us your peace.



## Holy Communion

### In-Person:

All are welcome to commune at the Altar. Ushers will guide.

Wine is Red Grape Juice is White

Gluten-free wafers available upon request.

### Online at Home:

If you have elements at home, commune with those in attendance at the same time. We encourage you to communion each other and bless children who have not received First Communion.

Consider giving this blessing:

"Know that the promises of Jesus's love are for you."

*Songs that may be sung during distribution of the Sacrament:*

**ELW #654      *The Church's One Foundation***  
**VS 4 Acapella**

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900. Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

## ELW #496 *One Bread, One Body*

*Refrain* G C/G GM<sup>7</sup> C/G G D Em B

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all;

Em D G Em A D D<sup>7</sup>

one cup of bless - ing which we bless,

G C/G GM<sup>7</sup> C/G G D Em B

and we, though man-y through-out the earth,

Em D G Em A D G C G

we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

Em D Em D

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,  
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,  
 3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

Em F Am D *Refrain*

wom-an or man, no more.  
 one in the Lord of all.  
 gath-ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ. b. 1939. Music: John Foley, SJ. b. 1939. © 1978, 1989  
 John B. Foley and New Dawn Music.

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
 and keep you in God's grace.

**C** **Amen**

## Post Communion Canticle

### Now, Lord

Now, Lord, you let your ser- vant go go— in  
peace: your word has been ful- filled. Mine  
eyes have seen the sal- va- tion which you have pre-  
pared in the sight of all peo- ple: a light to re-  
veal you to the na- tions and the glo- ry of your  
peo- ple Is- ra- el. Glo- ry to the Fa- ther,  
and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir- it,  
as it wa the be- gin- ning, IS now, and  
will be for- ev- er. A- men.

Text: Nunc dimittis &. Music *Detroit Folk Mass*, Tillis Butler & James Harris

© 1986 Fortress Press. admin. Augsburg Fort

A Let us pray... O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C Amen**

P The Benediction ☩

**C Amen**

# **Recessional ELW 548 *Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen*** **Arr. Jeremey Bankson 2025**



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,  
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low  
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture  
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



from this meal of love and grace;  
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;  
 God has called us to re - ceive;  
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



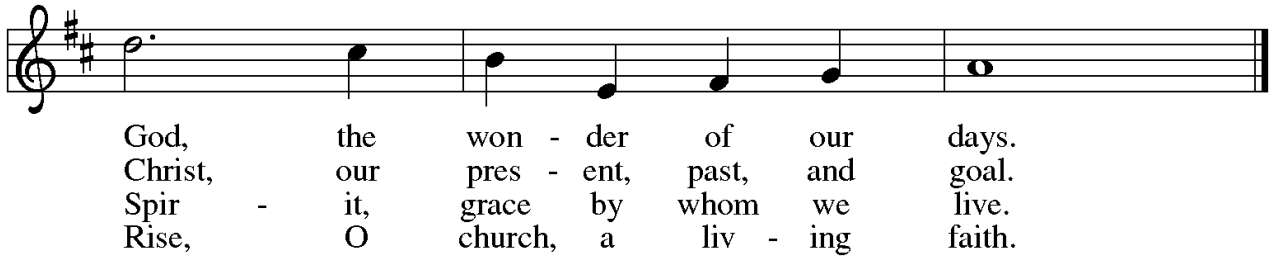
may we through such love en - vi - sion  
 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed  
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,  
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
 to re - lease and to con - sole.  
 Spir - it - ed then let us live.  
 from this day and un - to death.



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



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
 Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958  
 Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

**A** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude** *Toccata in d minor BWV 565*  
 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Copyright notices** *Kyrie Eleison* Music by Dinah Riendorf, Ghana ©**1987**; *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*: Music: Caribbean traditional, arr. Mark Sedio © **1995 Augsburg Fortress**; *We Are an Offering* Text & Music: Dwight Liles ©**1984 Bug & Bear Music, admin. Word Music, Inc.** *In the Silence Lord, Hear Our Prayer* Text & Music by Mark Patterson ©**2001 Choristers Guild**; "Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Preface" from *Santo, A Bilingual Communion Rite*: Music adapted from an Argentinean folk melody by Marty Haugen ©**2001 GIA Publications, Inc**; *Agnus Dei* by Marty Haugen, Music, ©**1992 Concordia Publishing House**; *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* Text: John Arthur, based on Ps. 105, ©**1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress**; Music: James Capers ©**1993 Augsburg Fortress**

## Calvary Lutheran Church

7620 Baker Boulevard      Richland Hills, Texas 76118  
 www.godshearthumanhands.org      email: calvary@calvaryftw.org  
 (817) 284-8724      (817) 284-0860 (Fax)

The Reverend Kyle Rouze    The Reverend Kyle Symanski

|                                      |                                                |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector / Acolyte</b>              | Gail Kviz                                      |
| <b>Assisting Minister / Crucifer</b> | Paul Bartells                                  |
| <b>Ushers / Greeters</b>             | Kathryn & Gary Hollhofer & Paul & Sharon Dobbs |
| <b>Communion Assistants</b>          | Melody Kuhns, Ginger Bowden & Sharon Bartells  |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>                   | Carrie Egan                                    |
| <b>Audio / Live Stream</b>           | Chris Aguilar / Ian Aguilar                    |

*Violin* Christian Haley, Karen Moxley, Matthew Mullins,  
 Cheril Rios

*Viola* Nathaniel Wheeler

*Double Bass* Amelia Defanti

*Oboe* Katelyn Bennett

*Flute/Piccolo* Christy Gibson, Toni Tharp

*Clarinet* Kelsey Helton, Nancy Medina, Emily Wenger

*Bass Clarinet* Cindy Mraz

*Sax* Nolan Burkett, Kelsey Helton, Mary Keller, Noah Larsen

*F Horn* Debra Machos

*Trumpet* Blake Bina, Skye Griffin, Jacob Groening, Lily Proctor

*Trombone* Jack Graeber, Robert Morris

*Bass Trombone* Paul Slezak

*Tuba* John Michael Slezak

*Timpani, Trap Set* Blake Kitch

*Organ/Piano*      Debbie Villavicencio

*Director of Music*      Viktor Andersson



## ***A Mighty Fortress is Our God*** **(Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott)**

**The words are Luther's interpretation of Psalm 46, the psalm appointed for today's liturgy.**

Hymn singing was born in the Lutheran Reformation, and Martin Luther was its father. Monks were primarily the only singers in mass before Luther. He obviously knew, loved and drew from this tradition from his time as an Augustinian monk.

*A Mighty Fortress* is sung throughout the world in over 200 languages. Probably first published in 1529 in Wittenberg, Germany, in Joseph Klug's *Geistliche Lieder (Spiritual Songs)*, Luther called it "A Hymn of Comfort" – a tribute to his dear friend and colleague Leonard Kaiser who was burned at the stake, martyred for his reform zeal.

Luther titled his new tune "Ein feste Burg" (A stronghold castle). The original rhythmic version, first published in 1539, is #503 in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The isometric (rhythms equalized) version, (ELW #504), is the one we are most accustomed to singing. It was first published in 1738 in Johann König's *Harmonischer Lieder-Schatz (Harmonious Song Treasury)*. The harmonization is from J. S. Bach's Cantata 80. Major works based on this chorale include Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony #5, composed in honor of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Augsburg Confession, and Giacomo Meyerbeer's opera *Les Huguenots*, as well as others by Buxtehude, Pachelbel, Handel, Telemann, Debussy, Glazunov, Wagner, Vaughn Williams, Max Reger, and countless others. Today's spectacular arrangement is by Revd. Michael Costello, Cantor at Grace Lutheran in River Forest, Illinois.

## **On the Cover: Martin Luther's Seal**

Luther's seal, or, as it is sometimes called, Luther's Rose, is the most widely known symbol of Lutheranism. Its origins are interesting. Luther was invited to create a personal symbol to summarize his faith in 1520. As his writings became increasingly popular, there was a desire on the part of the Wittenberg printers to somehow indicate what was an authorized publication of Luther's works. So, they asked Luther to tell them what he would like to have as his personal mark on his published works.

It was very common in Luther's Day for public servants, theologians, political rulers, and others of some public note, to have a personal seal. In 1530, Prince John Frederick wanted to give Luther a gift of a signet ring, as an expression of his appreciation, love and respect for Dr. Luther. Prince John personally presented the ring to Luther at the Coburg Castle on September 14, Holy Cross Day, when the Prince stopped there while travelling back from the meeting in Augsburg.

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647;  
Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters**

**Sunday, October 26, 2025**

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

**Simon and Jude, Apostles**

**Tuesday, October 28, 2025**

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

**Reformation Day**

**Friday, October 31, 2025**

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

**All Saints Day**

**Saturday, November 1, 2025**

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.



# Choral Festival & Hymn Sing

**Featuring *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure**

**Synod church choirs with orchestra**

**Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup>**

**4 pm**

**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
**7620 Baker Blvd.**  
**Richland Hills TX 76118**  
**817-284-8724**  
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# ADVENT VESPERS

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Saturday • Dec. 6, 2025 • 6 pm  
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