

# Morrison Zion Lutheran Church October 31 and November 3, 2024



# 1st Sunday of End Times: Reformation October 31 and November 3, 2024

Live a life of Courageous Witness Jesus repeatedly told his followers that living as his disciples would bring hardship. Living life according to God's Law is going to make one appear odd in the eyes of the world, perhaps even evil. Sharing a message of mankind's sin and God's gracious salvation can cause offense. So why not just stay silent if that makes life easier? Why not keep our faith private? Answer: because we are going to live forever. In gratitude for Christ saving us and giving us eternal life, we share the gospel with others, hoping that they will believe and be saved too. Since we know we are going to live forever in the perfection of heaven, we don't worry if being a witness for Christ brings hardship or even death.

Martin Luther wanted to reform the false teaching of the church. He stood firm in the truth of the gospel, knowing it might cost him his life. But Luther knew that, thanks to Christ, he would live forever. So will we. Therefore, like Luther, let us live a life of courageous witness.

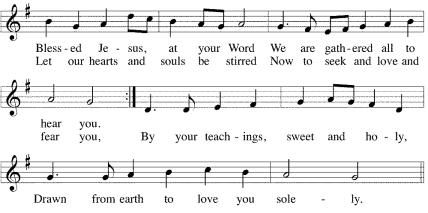
**Gathering Rite on the Word, Service of the Word** God's people long to gather together for strength from God and mutual encouragement. This alternate beginning reminds God's people of the blessings of his Word.

#### Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

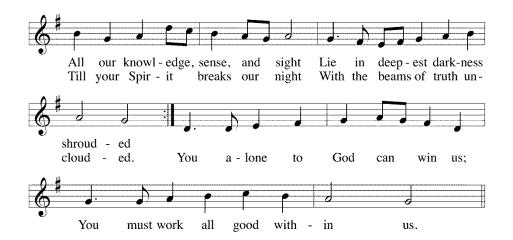
Introduction to the hymn.



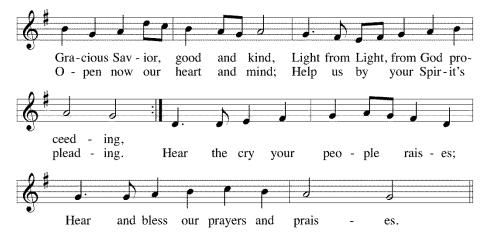
- M: Oh, how I love your law!
- C: I meditate on it all day long.
- M: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,
- C: for they are ever with me.
- M: I have more insight than all my teachers,

#### C: for I meditate on your statutes.

- M: How sweet are your words to my taste,
- C: sweeter than honey to my mouth! (Psalm 119:97-99,103)



- **M:** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
- C: so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16,17)
- **M**: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.
- C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



**M**: God gave his Word so "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (*John 20:31*). The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called 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.

# Prayer of the Day

## M: Let us pray.

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

Be Seated

**Choir** (Sunday only) He is the Rock, He is the Rock of Ages. He is the Rock, the Chief and Cornerstone. He is the Rock, He is the Sure Foundation. I will put my trust in the strength of the Lord.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

He is the Rock, He is the Rock of Ages. He is the Rock, the Chief and Cornerstone. He is the Rock, He is the Sure Foundation. I will put my trust in the strength of the Lord.

By Michael Barrett 1997 Malcolm Music a division of Shawnee Press

He is the Rock

#### THE WORD

#### First Lesson

In response to an evil command offered by a pagan king, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego lived lives of fearless witness.

<sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. <sup>11</sup> Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. <sup>12</sup> So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

<sup>16</sup>Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup>If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. <sup>18</sup>But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

<sup>19</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual <sup>20</sup>and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. <sup>21</sup>So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. <sup>22</sup>The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, <sup>23</sup>and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

<sup>24</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?"

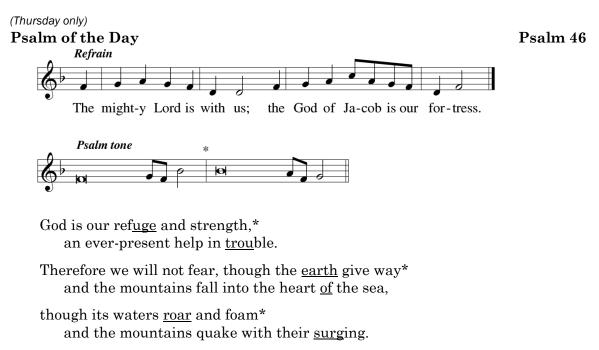
They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty."

<sup>25</sup>He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

<sup>26</sup>Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, <sup>27</sup>and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

<sup>28</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. (NIV)



#### Refrain

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There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,* the holy place where the Most <u>High</u> dwells.
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God is within her, she <u>will</u> not fall;\* God will help her at <u>break</u> of day.

"Be still, and know that <u>I</u> am God;" I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted <u>in</u> the earth."

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Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son*
and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it,
as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,*
is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.
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#### Refrain

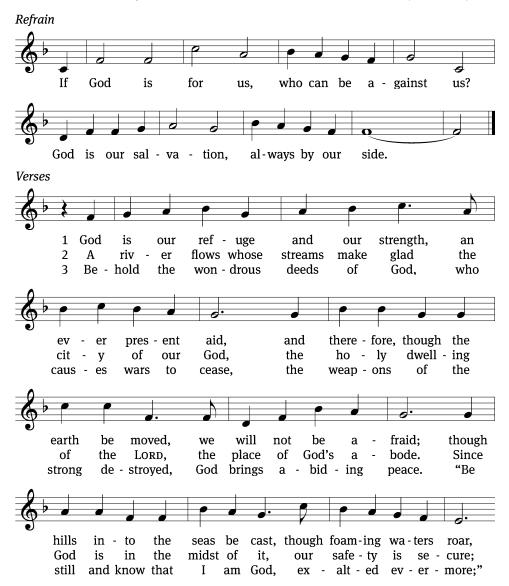
Refrain Tune: Dale Wood. From Seasonal Psalms. @ 1978 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

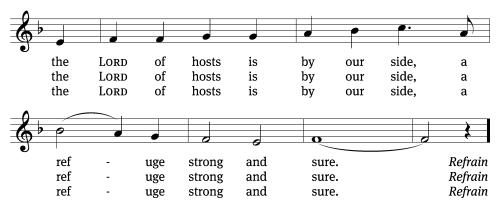


(Sunday 8 am and 10:30 - The choir will introduce the refrain and the congregation is invited to join in the repeated refrain. The choir will sing the verses and the congregation can join the refrains.)

Psalm of the Day

If God Is for Us Psalm 46E





Text: James Chepponis Tune: James Chepponis Text and tune: © 2004 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

## Second Lesson

#### **Revelation 14:6-7**

St. John sees God's messenger proclaiming the true gospel to all people. In 1546, this reading served as the text for the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther.

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup>He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."(NIV)

## Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Alleluia. (Luke 12:32)

Stand

#### Gospel

## Mark 13:5–11

Jesus encourages and empowers us that we might be bold in sharing the gospel in these end times.

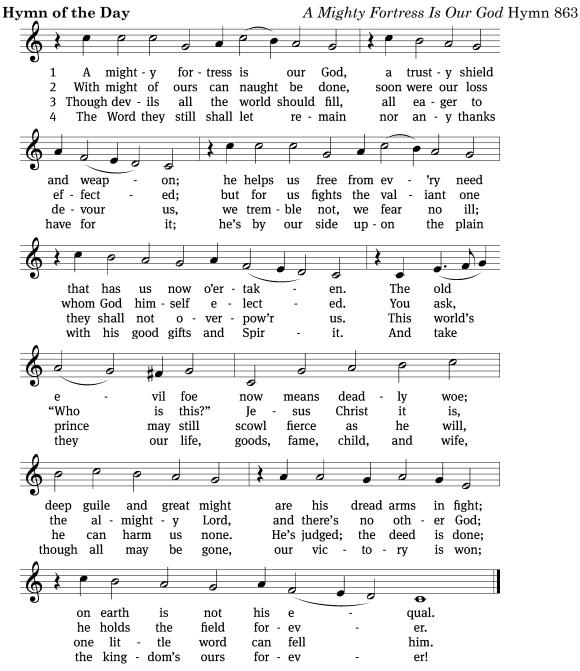
<sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

<sup>9</sup>"You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. <sup>10</sup>And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. <sup>11</sup>Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated



Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546 Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

#### Stand

**Apostles'** Creed I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints. the forgiveness of sins. the resurrection of the body. and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be Seated

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Offering

Stand

# **Prayer of the Church – Reformation**

M: Almighty and eternal God, when the set time had come, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to take our place under the demands of the law and endure the just punishment for our sins. You raised him from death in glorious splendor and for his sake, you richly and daily forgive sins.

# C: Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

M: When the set time had come, you poured out your Spirit on your people and called them to proclaim the gospel to every creature. Equipped and encouraged, they carried the story of salvation to all the world.

# C: The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

M: When the set time had come, you raised up your servant Martin Luther to destroy the idols of the medieval age and to restore the pure teaching of the Scriptures. You granted power and success to the proclamation of the gospel, and your holy Church grew and prospered throughout the world.

# C: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

- M: When the set time had come, you made our fathers bold to take their stand on the truth of your Word. Guided by your Spirit, they joined hands and hearts under a shared confession and with a determined resolve to work together in the ministry. You have blessed their sons and daughters and enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving gospel of your Son.
- C: Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.
- M: Let this be the time when you renew us again by Word and Sacrament, when you reform our hearts and minds, and when you restore to us the joy of fellowship and service. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of the fathers of our church's past.
- C: May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us or forsake us.
- M: Let this be a time to imitate the kind-hearted souls in our church who served the sick, helped the disabled, cared for the abandoned, and comforted the dying. Provide occasions to serve them and times to pray for them. [We pray especially today for... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Keep all your children in your powerful and gracious care.
- C: As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
- M: Let this be a time when we recommit ourselves to the ministry of the gospel of your Son. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and, if it is your will, success in our labor. And give us faith to take up again the trumpet none can silence or mistake and grant us courage to proclaim once more for all the world to hear: The feast is ready! Come to the feast!
- C: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

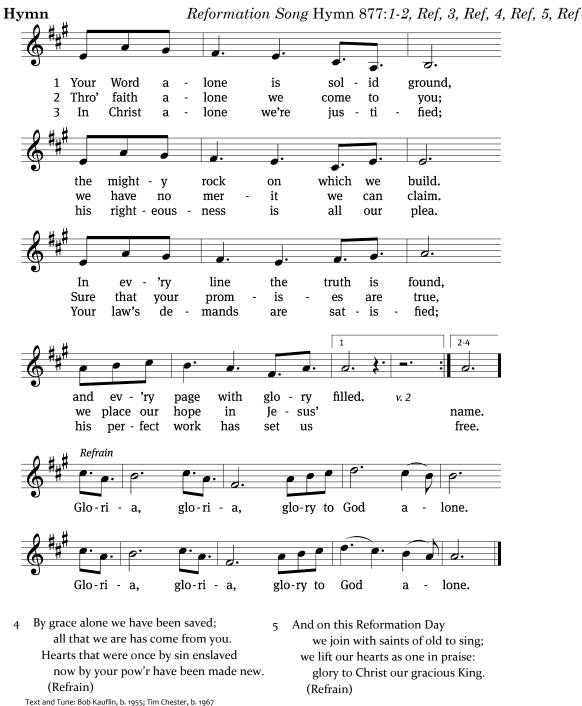
#### Silent prayer.

- M: Let this time and all our times be used to give thanks for your grace in Christ and to praise you for calling us into your mission to save.
- C: Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love and establish the work of our hands. 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 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.

Be Seated



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#### Stand

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# C: Amen

## Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

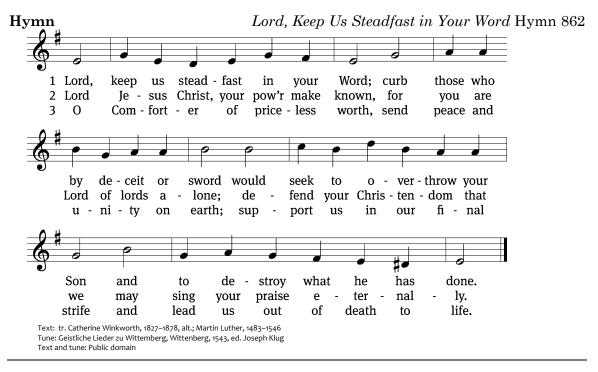
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

## C: Amen

Be Seated



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