

Bethany Lutheran Church



REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 30, 2022

8:00 & 9:30 AM

WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so glad you are here in God's house for worship. Here are some things to remember as we are gathered together today:

Before worship, talk to God! (see inside cover of hymnal for pre-service prayer prompts)

During worship, let God talk to you!

After worship, talk to one another; and if you're a visitor, please stop by the Connections table before you leave today and capture the QR codes for more information.

Parents of Young Children: *We love to have children in worship.* God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to completely suppress it in God's house. We know the presence of children in worship is a gift to the church! It is in the Lord's house that we learn how to listen and speak to our God with our brothers and sisters in faith. Feel free to quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of those leading worship. Children learn how to worship by copying you. If you have a need, we have "worship bags" in the Narthex filled with items to help children and families during worship. There is a **Cry Room** across the courtyard in the office complex, where you as a parent may take your little one needing a break. You will still be able to hear the worship service; and thus be able to continue your worship of the Lord.

Please place cell phones and electronic devices on mute as you join us in worship this morning. Thank you.

RE-FORMATION: A Church Ever Reforming... The Truth Never Changing

It has been 500 years since Luther completed his translation of the New Testament; vital for a movement that confessed the Scripture Alone as the source of faith and life for the Christian. The core declaration of the Reformation is a summation of the major theme of the Scriptures: That we are saved **by grace alone, through faith alone, for Christ's sake alone, apart from works of the law**; and in our lives are called to serve others as a **priesthood of believers** to the **Glory of God alone**.

Thus, even while we celebrate an event that occurred more than 500 years ago. We also celebrate that the Reformation is not just something that happened in time, but that it is continually happening **in, to and through** us. As we stand firm on these never changing truths, we find the Spirit of our Lord is ever at work changing us from self-focus and self-preoccupation. The change, this Re-formation, moves us to be ever more Christ-focused and ever more occupied with God's mission that others too experience a personal "re-formation".

PRELUDE:

"Ebenezer" or "Ton-y-botel"

~ Healey Willan

Organ

WELCOME

FESTIVAL PROCESSIONAL: *"Thy Strong Word"*

LSB 578

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
5 Give us lips to sing Thy glo - ry, Tongues Thy

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
night and deep as death, Broke the light of
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -
mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats that shout the

(Song continues on next page.)

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.
 hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy ho - ly name.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!

INVOCATION: (*Article 1 of the Augsburg Confession*)

Leader: We unanimously hold and teach that there is one true God,

People: **and that there are three persons in this one true God,
 equal in power and alike eternal:**

Leader: God the Father, God the + Son, God the Holy Spirit.

People: **All three are one divine essence, eternal, without division,
 without end, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness,
 one creator and preserver of all things visible and invisible.
 Amen.**

OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" LSB 657

Choir

* The Lord of hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

All

1 A might-y for-tress is our God, a sword and shield vic - to - rious;
he breaks the cruel op-pres-sor's rod and wins sal - va-tion glo - rious.
The old sa - tan - ic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dread - ful might, he arms him - self to fight.
On earth he has no e - qual.

Choir

2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he! Jesus Christ our Lord,
God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.
This world's prince may rage, in fierce war engage. He is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.

All

4 God's word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God him - self fights by our side with weap-ons of the Spir - it.
Were they to take our house, goods, hon - or, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched a - way, they can - not win the day.
The king - dom's ours for - ev - er.

Choir

The Lord of hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

*Psalm 46:7

CALL TO REPENTANCE: *(Adapted from Article 2 of the Augsburg Confession)*

Leader: Since the fall of Adam all people are conceived and born in sin; and by nature are full of evil lust and inclinations, and are unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SINS:

(Adapted from Luther's Small Catechism & Article 4 of the Augsburg Confession)

Leader: Do you believe that this is true of you, that you are a sinner?

People: Yes, I believe it; I am a sinner.

Leader: How do you know this?

People: From the Ten Commandments, for these I have not kept.

Leader: Are you sorry for your sins?

People: Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God and against my brothers and sisters.

Leader: What do you deserve from God because of your sins?

People: I deserve God's displeasure, wrath and punishment, as well as temporal and eternal death.

Leader: Do you hope to be saved?

People: Yes, that is my hope.

Leader: How can you hold such hope? In Whom, then, do you trust?

People: In my dear Lord, Jesus Christ.

Leader: What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

People: He died for me on the cross and shed His blood for my forgiveness.

Leader: What moved Christ to offer Himself in order to make payment for your sins?

People: His great love for His Father, for me, and for all sinners.

Leader: While we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works or satisfactions; we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for His sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. Therefore, as you believe, so let it be. Now I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Soli Deo Gloria!

People: To God Alone be the Glory! Alleluia, Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE:

"In Christ Alone"

1....In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
 2....In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
 3....There in the ground His bo - dy lay, Light of the
 4....No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the
 light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground,
 God in help - less Babe! This gift of love and right - eous ness,
 world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day,
 pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry, to fi - nal breath,
 firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of love,
 scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on the cross
 up from the grave He rose a gain! And as He stands
 Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. **No pow'r of hell,
 what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease. My com - fort - er,
 as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is - fied. For ev - 'ry sin
 in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am His
 no scheme of man, can e - ver pluck me from His hand. 'Til He re - turns
 my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
 on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

***At the conclusion of stanza 4 the congregation repeats again the phrase: "No pow'r of hell...."

RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 46

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
 Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way,
 though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
 though its waters roar and foam,
 though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

People: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

WOMEN *God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;*
& GIRLS: *God will help her when morning dawns.*

MEN & *The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;*
BOYS: *He utters His voice, the earth melts.*

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us;

People: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

WOMEN *Come, behold the works of the Lord,*
& GIRLS: *how He has brought desolations on the earth.*

MEN & *He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;*
BOYS: *He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.*

Leader: "Be still, and know that I am God.

People: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Leader: The Lord of hosts is with us;

People: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

SONG: *"He Will Hold Me Fast"*

Verse 1: When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold, Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast

Chorus: He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so He will hold me fast

Verse 2: Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost, His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast

Verse 3: For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Revelations 14:6-7*

I saw another angel flying overhead with the everlasting Good News to spread to those who live on earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people. The angel said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the time has come for him to judge. Worship the one who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs.” – GW ®

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

We know that whatever the Scriptures say applies to everyone under their influence, and no one can say a thing. The whole world is brought under the judgment of God. Not one person can have God’s approval by any effort to follow the laws in the Scriptures. These laws show what sin is.

Now, the way to receive God’s approval has been made plain in a way other than the laws in the Scriptures. Moses’ Teachings and the Prophets tell us this. Everyone who believes has God’s approval through faith in Jesus Christ.

There is no difference between people. Because all people have sinned, they have fallen short of God’s glory. They receive God’s approval freely by an act of his kindness through the price Christ Jesus paid to set us free from sin. God showed that Christ is the throne of mercy where God’s approval is given through faith in Christ’s blood. In his patience God waited to deal with sins committed in the past. He waited so that he could display his approval at the present time. This shows that he is a God of justice, a God who approves of people who believe in Jesus.

So, do we have anything to brag about? Bragging has been eliminated. On what basis was it eliminated? On the basis of our own efforts? No, indeed! Rather, it is eliminated on the basis of faith. We conclude that a person has God’s approval by faith, not by his own efforts. – GW ®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”* The Bethany Choir
 ~ J.S. Bach

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

So Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, “If you live by what I say, you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

They replied to Jesus, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and we’ve never been anyone’s slaves. So how can You say that we will be set free?”

Jesus answered them, “I can guarantee this truth: Whoever lives a sinful life is a slave to sin. A slave doesn’t live in the home forever, but a son does. So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free. – GW ®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON: "Free: To a Good Home"

Text: John 8

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"Jesus Paid It All"

1. And I hear the Sa-vior say, "Thy strength in-deed is
now in-deed I find Thy pow'r and Thine a-
when be-fore the throne I stand in Him com-
small. Child of weak-ness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all."
lone, can change the lep-ers spots, and melt the heart of stone.
plete, Je-sus died my soul to save my lips shall still re-peat.
Je-sus paid it all, all to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crim-son stain, He washed it white as snow.
1. 2.
3. Sin had left a crim-son stain He washed it white as snow. He
washed it white as snow. He washed it white as snow.
Oh
praise the One who paid my debt, and raised this life up from the dead. Oh,

APOSTLES' CREED: *First, Second and Third Articles with Its Meanings*

Leader: Join me as we confess the First Article and Its Meaning – *Creation*.

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: *What does this mean?*

People: **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Leader: Join me as we confess the Second Article and Its Meaning – *Redemption*.

People: **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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Leader: *What does this mean?*

People: **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

This is most certainly true.

Leader: Join me as we confess the Third Article and Its Meaning – *Sanctification*.

People: 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.

Leader: *What does this mean?*

People: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION: *(See page 15 for complete list of new members.)*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *(Adapted from Luther's Small Catechism)*

Leader: Let us pray together as Jesus taught us: Our Father who art in heaven,

People: Dear God, You tenderly invite us to believe
that You are our true Father and that we are Your dear children.

Leader: Hallowed by Thy name,

People: Dear Lord, Your name is holy in itself,
but we pray that it may be kept holy by us.

Leader: This is accomplished Lord when Your Word is taught clearly and purely;

People: and we, as your children, lead holy lives in accordance with it;
help us to this end. Amen.

Leader: Thy Kingdom come,

People: Your Kingdom comes when You, our heavenly Father, give us Your Holy Spirit, so that by Your grace we may believe Your Word, live our lives for You, and share the Good News of Christ with others that Your Kingdom may abound in the hearts of many.

Leader: Thy will be done,

People: Your will is done when You curb and destroy the purpose of the devil,
the world and our sinful flesh;
and strengthen us to gladly know and do what pleases You.
May this Your good and gracious will be done in us until the end. Amen.

Leader: Give us this day our daily bread,

People: Thank You good and gracious God for Your daily blessings
by which You provide all things needed to support our bodies and lives.

Leader: Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

People: We pray, dear Father, that You would not look at our sins,
nor deny our prayers because of them.

Leader: And lead us not into temptation,

People: We pray, Lord, that You would guard and keep us so that the devil, the
world and our sinful nature may not deceive or mislead us. Amen.

Leader: Deliver us from evil.

People: We pray, Almighty God, that You would rescue us from every evil,
and at last, when the hour of death comes,
You would grant us a blessed end
and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to Yourself in heaven.
Amen and Amen.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever!

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maralee at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING: *(Adapted from Article 6 of the Augsburg Confession)*

Leader: Now faith should abound with fruit
and produce good works in us for God's sake,
not placing our trust in them, as if to merit favor before God;
for we have received His favor through faith in Christ,

People: to Whom alone, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
belongs ALL Glory. Alleluia, Amen.

OUR CLOSING HYMN: "God of Grace and God of Glory"

LSB 850



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
 2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
 sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -

hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.
 dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

POSTLUDE: "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott" BWV 720

Organ

~ J. S. Bach

+ + + + + +

"Our Sabbath continues at 11:00 AM as we gather for study via zoom to connect more deeply with the texts read and proclaimed in worship and to connect with one another;

brothers and sister sent with us into the world as His hands, feet and voice."

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/879060806> Meeting ID: 879 060 806

There is no password.

Today We Welcome These New Members Into the Church Family:

John and Carol Alwood – Reaffirmation of Faith / Adult Confirmation

Lillian Alwood – Adult Confirmation

Trinity Alwood – Adult Confirmation

Rev. Thomas Decker and Jan Decker – Transfer from St. John's Lutheran
Church, Long Beach, CA

Kelli Johnson – Adult Confirmation

Paul and Kasey Loya – Adult Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Faith

Shannon Morgensen – Re-Affirmation of Faith

Sovirny Norg-Preston – Transfer from The Gathering, Long Beach, CA

Samantha Root – Transfer from Christ Lutheran Church, Brea, CA

James and Donna White – Re-Affirmation of Faith

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BETHANY BULLET?

The ***Bethany Bullet*** is a weekly capsule of worship highlights, and important information about events taking place at Bethany Lutheran Church. If you would like to receive the ***Bethany Bullet*** please email Aimee Coleman at acoleman@bethanylutheran.org with your name and email address. Tell a friend about the ***Bethany Bullet!***