

October 26, 2025

Reformation Sunday



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

We welcome you to worship here at Grace!

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.*

*Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

GATHERING

Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Please stand as you are able.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

Let us pray. We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that You would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our lives and actions may please You. Into Your hands we commend ourselves: our body, our soul, and all that is ours. Let Your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.

REFORMATION LITANY

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

OPENING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress

ELW #504

A Mighty Fortress (verse 1)

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

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

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

A Mighty Fortress (verse 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.
You ask who this may be? The lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; God speaks and the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord!

God makes wars cease to the end of the earth; God breaks the bow, shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

A Mighty Fortress (verse 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.
Let this world's tyrant rage; In battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; Gods judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

Be still, and know that the Lord is God!

God is exalted among the nations; God is exalted in the earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our refuge.

A Mighty Fortress (verse 4)

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.

Please be seated.

READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

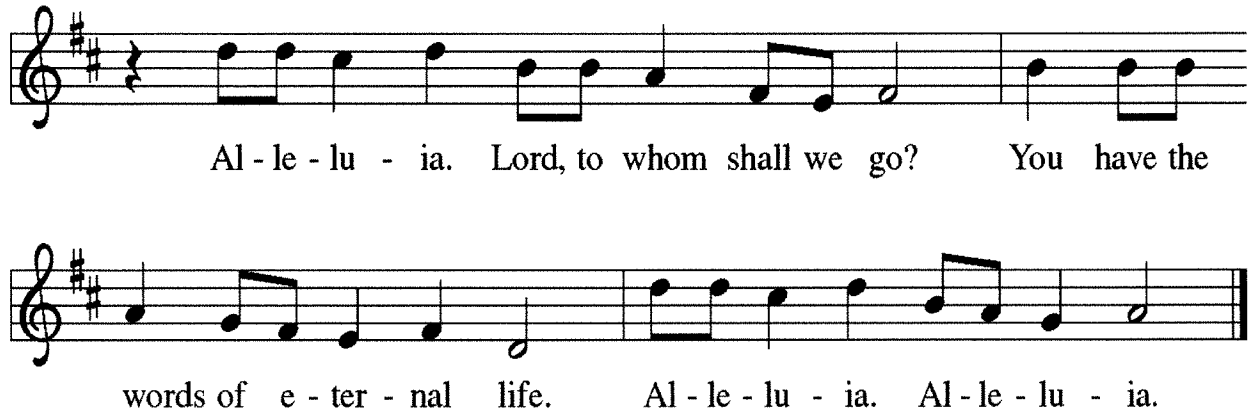
The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They 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’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *By Grace We Have Been Saved Through Faith*
 (to the tune of "O God, Our Help in Ages Past) by Carolyn Gillet
carolynshymns@gmail.com

By grace, we have been saved through faith
 and not by works we do.
 For just as God gives life and breath
 God makes us whole and new.

We cannot boast of all our deeds;
 we have not earned our way.
 It's God, in Christ, who claims and frees
 and calls us day by day.

Though all our works won't cure our sin
 or give to us our worth,
 we're called to use this time we're in
 to serve God here on earth.

O God, in Christ, we hold this world
 within your love's embrace.
 In serving you, we thank you, Lord,
 For all your wondrous grace.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*What does this mean?*

**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, wife 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. Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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.

What does this mean?

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 saved 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. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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.

What does this mean?

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. **Amen and Amen!**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Now Thank We All Our God* by William Allen Pasch

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Create in me a Clean Heart* [WOV page 732](#)

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. **By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation. *Brief silence.*

At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or pastor says, "God of grace," please respond with "Receive our prayer."

P: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

white booklet page 3

We praise You, all-holy God, for the universe beyond our knowing, for creatures seen and unseen, and for the place we call home. We praise You for Your covenant people and for centuries of faithful Christians, for Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, for Martin and Katie Luther, Melancthon, Muhlenberg, Bach, Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer, and for all servants of the Reformation. We praise You for our brothers and sisters with whom we are in full partnership--Episcopalians, Methodists, Moravians, Presbyterians, Reformed Church of America, and the United Church of Christ--and for all with whom we long to be in full partnership. We praise You, O God, for Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin and from evil, embodying forgiveness, granting us grace, and for setting us free.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give thanks for your Son, who in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. **Amen.**

And so we remember Your Word, His life, His death, and His glorious resurrection, His presence in this meal around the world, and we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray, O God, for Your Spirit. Bless this meal and all those who share it; inspire Your people for service, continue the reformation of Your churches; and renew the world with Your mercy, with Your healing, Your justice, and Your peace, with the joy of life in Your household. We praise You, all-holy God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, Mighty Fortress, victorious champion, powerful shield, today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together, we pray as our Lord taught us, saying:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God. **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* *white booklet page 4*

COMMUNION HYMNS *The Church of Christ in Every Age* **ELW #729**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the tray and return to your pew. As places open up, worshippers will fill them in so that communion is a continuous process. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING

BLESSING

God almighty, God most merciful ✝ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *The Church's One Foundation* **ELW #654**
 VERSE 1, 3, 5 ALL, VERSE 2 WOMEN, VERSE 3 MEN

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music.
 and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

POSTLUDE *Ein Fest Burg Ist Unser Gott* by J. S. Bach

DISMISSAL Go in peace and follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

*We are glad for your presence today.
 We hope you come again soon!*

We thank all those serving in worship today:
Reader: Sharon Ehrhardt



The flowers sponsor this week is: Robert Klingensmith, in honor of Martin Luther.

The anthem/music sponsor this week is: John Staples, in memory of John and Katherine Staples.

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

October 26, 2024—November 2, 2024

Reformation Sunday 10/26/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum
10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 10/27/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 10/28/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 10/29/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00APM AA Book Study
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 10/30/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
5:00PM Choir Rehearsal
6:00 AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 10/31/24

10:30AM Grace Stitchers
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 11/1/24

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

All-Saints Sunday 11/2/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship Service
8:45AM Adult Forum Group
10:15AM Traditional Worship
First Holy Communion

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Tues 10:00AM-3:00PM
Thurs-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM

SHORE DINER

Present this bulletin on a Sunday and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace Lutheran Church. Present this on any other day, and we will donate 10%.

Shore Diner
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Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
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