

MY FUTURE HIS CARE

Reformation

10-25-26

Theme: We are thinking about the future. What the future holds, but more than that, who holds the future. In the end, our future is in God's care. Our future is not grounded in progress and optimization or the lack thereof. Our future is grounded in God's promises and faithfulness.

† GOD CALLS †

OPENING SONG

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (LSB 657 v. 1 & 2)

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.

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 46

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen.

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength.
ALL: A very present help in trouble.

Pastor: Therefore, we will not fear though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though it's waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. 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;

ALL: God will help her at the break of day.

Pastor: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice the earth melts. The Lord almighty is with us.

ALL: The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: Come and see the works of the Lord, the desolations He has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear, He burns the shields with fire. Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord almighty is with us.

ALL: The God of Jacob is our fortress.

SONG

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (LSB 657 v. 3 & 4)

Though hordes of devils fill the land,
All threatening to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand,
They cannot overpower us
Let this world's tyrant rage;
In battle we'll engage.
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

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!

† GOD FORGIVES †

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Pastor: If we say we have no sin the truth is not in us but if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

Pastor: Most merciful God,

ALL: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake He forgives all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I declare with joy, “Your sins are forgiven!” In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

“His Mercy Is More”

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum;
thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new ev’ry morn;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more!

What patience would wait as we constantly roam,

what Father so tender is calling us home!
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more!

What riches of kindness he lavished on us;
his blood was the payment, his life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;
our sins they are many his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more!

Our sins they are many,
his mercy is more!

† GOD SPEAKS †

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

1 Thessalonians 2: 1-13

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ² We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition.

³ For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴ On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵ You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶ We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. ⁷ Instead, we were like young children^[a] among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸ so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God

but our lives as well. ⁹ Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰ You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹ For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹² encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 22:34-46

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^[a] ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

“The son of David,” they replied.

⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says,

⁴⁴ “‘The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand
until I put your enemies
under your feet.’”^[c]

⁴⁵ If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **The Apostles’ Creed**

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

And 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.

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

BRINGING OUR BLESSINGS *with Thanksgiving in our Offering*

PRAYERS

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.

PSALM 1

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in

season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. ⁴ Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶ For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

“The Reformation Song” (Big Blue Book, 877)- NEW SONG

**Your Word alone is solid ground,
the mighty rock on which we build
In ev’ry line the truth is found,
and ev’ry page with with glory filled.**

**Thro’ faith alone we come to you;
we have no merit we can claim.
Sure that your promises are true,
we place our hope in Jesus’ name.**

**Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.**

**In Christ alone we’re justified;
his righteousness is all our plea.
Your law’s demands are satisfied;
his perfect work has set us free.**

**Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.**

**By grace alone we have been saved;
all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
now by your pow’r have been made new.**

**Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.**

**And on this Reformation Day
we join with saints of old to sing;**

we lift our hearts as one in praise:
glory to Christ our gracious King.

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

† GOD GIVES †

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE DISTRIBUTION

“O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer”

O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer,
greatest treasure of my longing soul,
my God, like you there is no other,
true delight is found in you alone.
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom,
love exceeds the heavens' reach,
your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom,
my highest good and my unending need.

O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer,
strong defender of my weary heart,
my sword to fight the cruel deceiver,
and my shield against his hateful darts,
my song when enemies surround me,
my hope when tides of sorrow rise,
my joy when trials are abounding,
your faithfulness, my refuge in the night.

O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer,
gracious Savior of my ruined life,
my guilt and cross laid on your shoulders,
in my place you suffered, bled, and died.
You rose, the grave and death are conquered;
you broke my bonds of sin and shame.
O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer,
may all my days bring glory to your name.

“How Deep the Father’s Love For Us”

How deep the Father’s love for us,
how vast beyond all measure
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
as wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything:
no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

THE DISMISSAL

CLOSING SONG

“There Is One Gospel”

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story, my Father’s plan
The Son has rescued me

Oh what a Gospel, Oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light

I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel to which I cling
All else I count as loss
For there, where justice and mercy meet
He saved me on the cross

No more I boast in what I can bring
No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is one Gospel where hope is found
The empty tomb still speaks
For death could not keep my Saviour down
He lives and I am free

Now on my Saviour, I fix my eyes
My life is His and His hope is mine!
For He has promised I, too, will rise
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

And in this Gospel the church is one
We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on
To lead us safely home

And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise to my Saviour, the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

ALL: Amen!

THE DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God