



Sit
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

<i>O LORD, WE PRAISE THEE</i>	LSB 617
<i>BUILT ON THE ROCK</i>	LSB 645
<i>LORD, HELP US EVER TO RETAIN</i>	LSB 865
<i>LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD</i>	LSB 655

Stand
DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER
BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

- [P]** Let us bless the Lord.
- [C]** Thanks be to God.
- [P]** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- [C]** Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN	<i>THY STRONG WORD</i>	LSB 578
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POSTLUDE

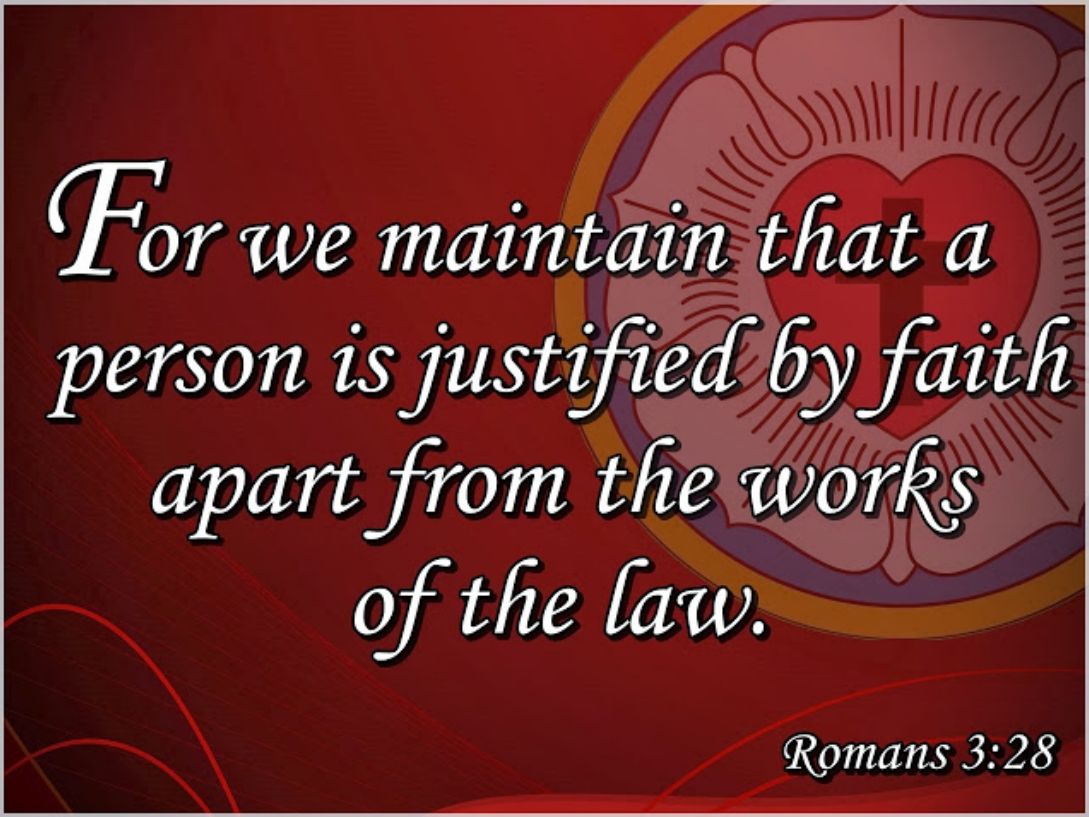
Our celebration of the Reformation was enhanced this morning with special music from AoC’s choir, bell choir, and our brass ensemble under the direction of Kantor Emma Stegall. Thanks be to God for the gift of music and of musicians to lead our praise!

Brass Ensemble
Ron Berndt - Trumpet
Pastor Ed Steeh - Trumpet
Alexis Cook – Euphonium
Dr. Christopher Cook – Trombone

+TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY+

Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church
16935 W. 14 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025
Phone: 248.644.8890 **Web:** www.ascensionofchrist.org
The Reverend Larry K. Loree, Pastor

*A member congregation of The English District of
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*



Festival of the Reformation (observed)
October 26, 2025

+IN THE NAME OF JESUS+

WELCOME to the Divine Service at Ascension of Christ! We pray that you will be richly blessed by God as you hear His Word, receive His gifts and worship Him with your prayer and praise!

TO OUR GUESTS Welcome, we are glad that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher or a greeter if you have any questions. Be sure to introduce yourself to our Pastor. We invite you to consider Ascension of Christ if you are looking for a church home. We gather every Sunday morning for Adult Bible Study at 9:00 a.m., the Divine Service at 10:15 a.m., and Fellowship Hour immediately following the Divine Service. Children are invited to participate in Sunday school/Confirmation after church.

CHILDREN AT ASCENSION At Ascension, we want you to feel at home. First, please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome here! To make it easier on your family, please dare to sit closer to the front where your children can easily see what's going on, note the colors, watch the pastors, wonder about those heads on the lectern, and embrace the action at the altar. What Jesus does here is for them, too! As we go through the Divine Service, encourage them to join in on their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy. And with your spirit. I believe! Our Father!* And please be sure to sing and pray your parts too! Children learn by following your lead. There are some busy bags in the back of the church for you and if you must take your children out of the church, please hurry back!

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS JOYFULLY RECEIVED HERE TODAY At the altar, our Lord Jesus Christ delivers His true body and blood into our mouths. His gift of body and blood given in, with, and under the bread and wine, bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation. All members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have publicly confessed this sacred gift and its blessings and so are encouraged to commune. When you have examined yourself according to Christ's bidding (1 Corinthians 11:28), come to His Supper rejoicing, just as Jesus asks, knowing that our Lord meets you at His altar with joy. If you are a guest and would like to learn more about the practice of the Lord's Supper at Ascension of Christ, or if you are uncertain about whether you should receive the Lord's Supper, please speak with Pastor Loree before communing for the first time.

THE LITURGY FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY The Law leaves us speechless, for it condemns us and holds us accountable to God. By the Law, every sin is unmasked, every sinner declared guilty. In Christ, by His blood, we receive faith. This faith justifies us apart from the works of the Law. Thanks be to God that Christ gives us this Gospel. By it sin is forgiven and sinners declared innocent. This is our freedom in Christ proclaimed throughout every nation, tribe, language, and people.



Cantor

The beams and lintels trembled at the cry,

And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

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PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



Kneel/Stand
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
Sit
OFFERING

+GOD GIVES US A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME+

Stand
PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with your spirit.
- 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 Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

LORD’S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

SANCTUS *ISAIAH, MIGHTY SEER IN DAYS OF OLD*

Cantor
Isaiah, mighty seer in days of old,
The Lord of all in spirit did behold
High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,
With robes that filled the temple courts with light.
Above the throne were flaming seraphim;
Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.
With two they veiled their faces as was right,
With two they humbly hid their feet from sight,
And with the other two aloft they soared;
One to the other called and praised the Lord:

Congregation



Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a - oth!

+GOD GATHERS US BEFORE HIS HOLY PRESENCE+

This morning’s service follow’s the order of Martin Luther’s Chorale Service.

PRELUDE *“By Grace, I’m Saved” arr. Lauran Delancy – Handbell Choir*

Please stand at the sound of the chimes and face the baptismal font

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

EXHORTATION

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

ABSOLUTION

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN *A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD* LSB 656

Kneel/Stand

LITANY

- L

O Lord,
- C

have mercy.
- L

O Christ,
- C

have mercy.
- L

O Lord,
- C

have mercy.
- L

O Christ,
- C

hear us.
- L

God the Father in heaven,
- C

have mercy.
- L

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
- C

have mercy.
- L

God the Holy Spirit,
- C

have mercy.
- L

Be gracious to us.
- C

Spare us, good Lord.
- L

Be gracious to us.
- C

Help us, good Lord.
- L

From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
- C

Good Lord, deliver us.
- L

By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
- C

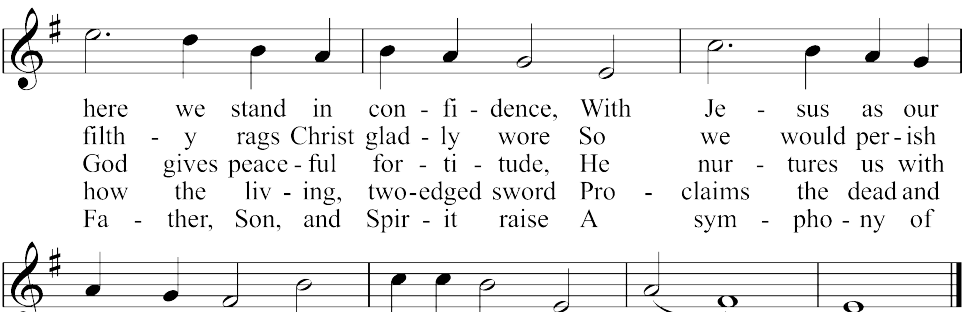
Help us, good Lord.
- L

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- C

Help us, good Lord.
- L

We poor sinners implore You
- C

to hear us, O Lord.



Text: Wilfred L. Karsten, b. 1957

Tune: Jeffrey N. Biersch, b. 1967

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HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

[“The truth will set you free.”]

- P

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter
- C

Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”³⁴Jesus answered

them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

- P

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C

Praise to You, O Christ

CREED

WE ALL BELIEVE IN ONE TRUE GOD

LSB 953

Sit

SERMON

+GOD RECEIVES OUR PRAYERS & OFFERINGS+

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy and Emma Stegall

righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over

former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY *THOUGH ALL OUR LIFE IS LIKE A SCROLL*



1 Though all our life is like a scroll Un -
2 Though pomp - ous - ly we try to dress In
3 Though earth's deep wa - ters foam and roar As
4 Though crit - ics cut out Scrip-ture's claims And
△ 5 Now sing a high dox - ol - o - gy To



rolled with blem-ish-ed pa - ges; Though sin has shred - ded
cos - tumes of our mak - ing; Though fig leaves of self -
surg - ing waves are roll - ing; Though all the na - tions
treat them with de - ri - sion; Though they con-duct their
God who gives sal - va - tion. Both here and in e -



what was whole And death is now our wa - ges; Yet
righ-teous-ness Are fu - tile and heart - break - ing; Yet
rage with war While bells of doom are toll - ing; Yet
hos - tile aims With scal - pels of sus - pi - cion; Yet
ter - ni - ty Let this be our vo - ca - tion. To

- L** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
- C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- L** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:
- C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- L** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our *president* and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:
- C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- L** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:
- C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- L** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
- C** we implore You to hear us.
- L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** have mercy.
- L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** have mercy.
- L** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** grant us Your peace.
- L** O Christ,
- C** hear us.
- L** O Lord,
- C** have mercy.
- L** O Christ,

- C** have mercy.
- L** O Lord,
- C** have mercy. Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH



1 All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His
2 We praise and laud and wor - ship You; We give You thanks for -
3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Be - got - ten of the
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, our de - light And source of con - so -



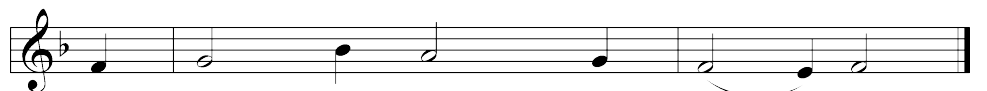
fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A
ev - er, O Fa - ther, for Your rule is true And
Fa - ther, Your sav - ing death has made us one With
la - tion, Pro - tect us from the dev - il's might Through



child of God for - ev - er. God shows His good and
just and chang - es nev - er. With bound - less pow'r, Your
God and with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to
Je - sus, our sal - va - tion, Who by His death up -



gra - cious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—
might - y reign Ful - fills what - ev - er You or - dain.
You on high In our dis - tress we sin - ners cry,
on a tree Has res - cued us from mis - er - y:



All strife at last has end - ed.
Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!
Have mer - cy on us, a - men!
To this we hold for - ev - er.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with your spirit.
- P** Let us pray. Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us

in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

+GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD+

OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 Chronicles 29:12-19

[Hezekiah Cleanses the Temple]

¹²Then the Levites arose, Mahath the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites; and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehallelel; and of the Gershonites, Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah; ¹³and of the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeuel; and of the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah; ¹⁴and of the sons of Heman, Jehuel and Shimei; and of the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel. ¹⁵They gathered their brothers and consecrated themselves and went in as the king had commanded, by the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD. ¹⁶The priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and they brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the LORD into the court of the house of

the LORD. And the Levites took it and carried it out to the brook Kidron. ¹⁷They began to consecrate on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the vestibule of the LORD. Then for eight days they consecrated the house of the LORD, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished. ¹⁸Then they went in to Hezekiah the king and said, “We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table for the showbread and all its utensils. ¹⁹All the utensils that King Ahaz discarded in his reign when he was faithless, we have made ready and consecrated, and behold, they are before the altar of the LORD.”

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Salvation unto Us Has Come” – Paul Speratus

EPISTLE READING

Romans 3:19–28

[A man is justified by faith.]

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held

accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the