



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL



REFORMATION

Sunday

OCTOBER 25, 2026

Welcome



Worship Series: The Beginning of the End

October 25, 2026

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, “The End Is Near.” For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ’s first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It’s the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ’s finished work for us. Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God’s favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God’s ways of keeping us ready.

“The Beginning of the End” reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ’s return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

Today’s Focus: Stay Steadfast

Jesus told his followers, “You will be hated by everyone because of me” (Matthew 10:22). So, the time between Christ’s first and second coming is going to be perilous for believers. A good example: Martin Luther. All that priest wanted was to share the pure gospel with the world. For trying to do just that, both political and religious leaders wanted to end his life. The Festival of the Reformation emphasizes our unfailing reliance on the Word of God. We give unflinching testimony to that Word even in the face of persecution. Today we pray that the Lord would keep us steadfast in the faith.

Opening Hymn

877 Reformation Song



1 Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground,
 2 Thro' faith a - lone we come to you;
 3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;
 4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;



the might - y rock on which we build.
 we have no mer - it we can claim.
 his right - eous - ness is all our plea.
 all that we are has come from you.



In ev - 'ry line the truth is found,
 Sure that your prom - is - es are true,
 Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;
 Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved



and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled. v. 2
 we place our hope in Je - sus' name.
 his per - fect work has set us free.
 now by your pow'r have been made new.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

Text: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauffman, b. 1955
 Tune: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauffman, b. 1955
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In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Dialogue for Reformation

In the words spoken by the minister, Dr. Luther remembered his “tower experience” in which he came to understand the central teaching of the Scriptures.

In the meantime in the same year (1519) I had begun again to lecture on the Psalter, believing that with my classroom experience in lecturing on the Psalms and the Letters of Paul to the Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews, I was now better prepared.

The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

All the while I was absorbed with the passionate desire to get better acquainted with the author of Romans. Not that I did not succeed, as I had resolved, in penetrating more deeply into the subject in my investigation, but I stumbled over the words concerning “the righteousness of God revealed in the gospel.” For the concept of God’s righteousness was repulsive to me, as I was accustomed to interpret it according to scholastic philosophy, namely as the “formal or active” righteousness, in which God proves himself righteous in that he punishes the sinner as an unrighteous person.

**In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.
Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness; turn your ear to me
and save me.**

After days and nights of wrestling with the problem, God finally took pity on me, so that I was able to comprehend the inner connection between the two expressions, “the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel” and “the just shall live by faith.”

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

Then I began to comprehend the righteousness of God through which the righteous are saved by God's grace, namely, through faith; that the righteousness of God which is revealed through the gospel was to be understood in a passive sense in which God through mercy justifies man by faith, as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." Now I felt exactly as though I had been born again, and I believed that I had entered Paradise through widely opened doors.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

I then went through the Holy Scriptures as far as I could recall them from memory, and I found in other parts the same sense: the "work of God" is that which he works in us, the "strength of God" is that through which he makes us strong, the "wisdom of God" that through which he makes us wise, and so the "power of God," the "blessing of God," and the "honor of God" are likewise to be interpreted.

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

As violently as I had formerly hated the expression "the righteousness of God," so I was now as violently compelled to embrace the new conception of grace and, thus, for me, the expression of the apostle really opened the gates of paradise.

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: ELLACOMBE



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it at God the Fa - ther's throne



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.
Amen.

First Reading

Daniel 6:10–12,16–23

Even though it potentially meant death by lion, Daniel demonstrated steadfast faith and prayed to the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

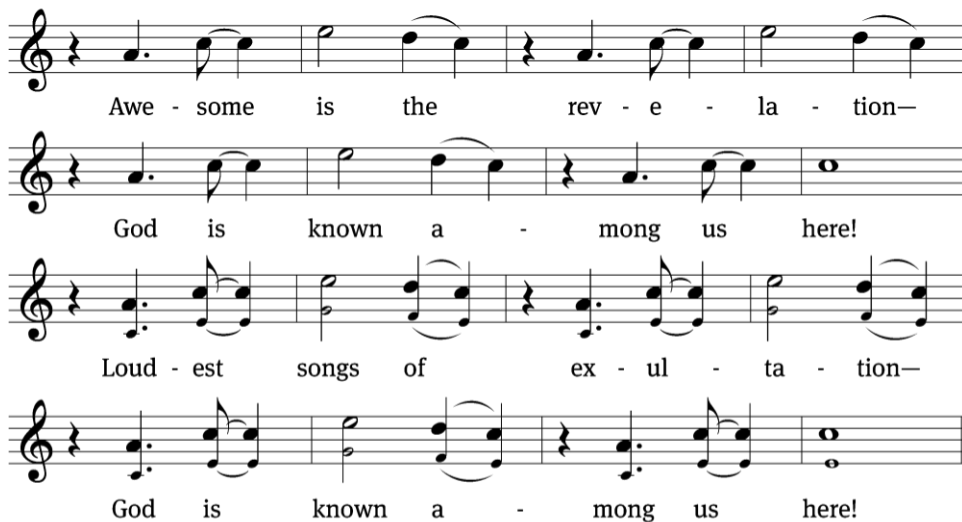
Psalm of the Day

Psalm 76

The children will sing verses 1 and 2, including the refrain after verse 2. The congregation joins for verse 3, its refrain, verse 4, and the refrain after verse 4. The children sing the bridge, and all join for the final refrain.

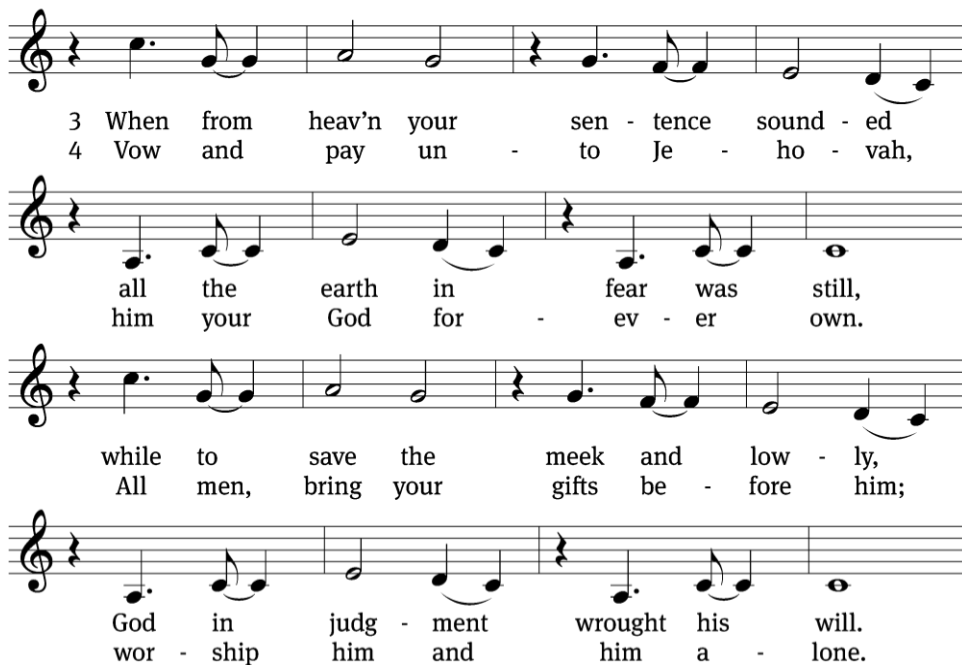
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 God is known among his people;
ev'ry mouth his praises fill.
From of old he has established
his abode on Zion's hill.
There he broke the sword and arrow,
bade the noise of war be still. (v. 2) | 2 Excellent and glorious are you
with your trophies from the fray.
You have slain the mighty warriors;
wrapped in sleep of death are they.
When your anger once is risen,
who can stand in that dread day?
(Refrain) |
|--|---|

Refrain



Awe - some is the rev - e - la - tion—
 God is known a - mong us here!
 Loud - est songs of ex - ul - ta - tion—
 God is known a - mong us here!

Verses



3 When from heav'n your sen - tence sound - ed
 4 Vow and pay un - to Je - ho - vah,
 all the earth in fear was still,
 him your God for ev - er own.
 while to save the meek and low - ly,
 All men, bring your gifts and be - fore him;
 God in judg - ment wrought his will.
 wor - ship him and him a - lone.

E'en the wrath of man shall praise you,
Might - y kings o - bey and fear him,
your de - signs it shall ful - fill. *Refrain*
princ - es bow be - fore his throne! *Refrain and Bridge*

Bridge

Who is this King of glory? His name is Jesus! Jesus!
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!
His name is Jesus! Jesus!
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!
(Final Refrain)

Final Refrain

Awe - some is the rev - e - la - tion—
God is known a - mong us here!
Loud - est songs of ju - bi - la - tion—
God does now in flesh ap - pear!

Second Reading

Romans 3:19–28

God justifies those who have been given the gift of steadfast faith in Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 12:32



Refrain

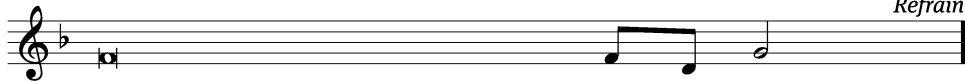


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Do not be afraid, lit - tle flock,



Refrain

for your Father has been pleased to give you the king - dom.

Tune: © 2002, 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

Gospel

Matthew 10:16–23

The Lord keeps us steadfast and faithful through times of persecution.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



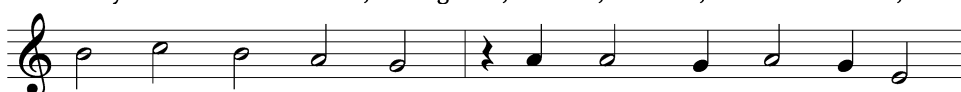
and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
 de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
 they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
 the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
 he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
 though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
 he holds the field for - ev - er.
 one lit - tle word can fell him.
 the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1545; tr. composite
 Tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

New Member Welcome

Offering

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

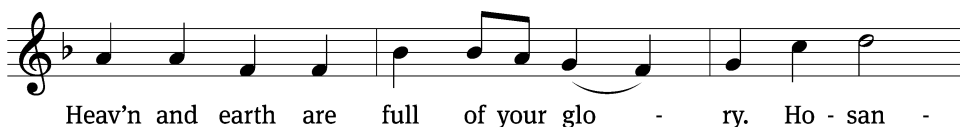
We lift them up to the Lord.

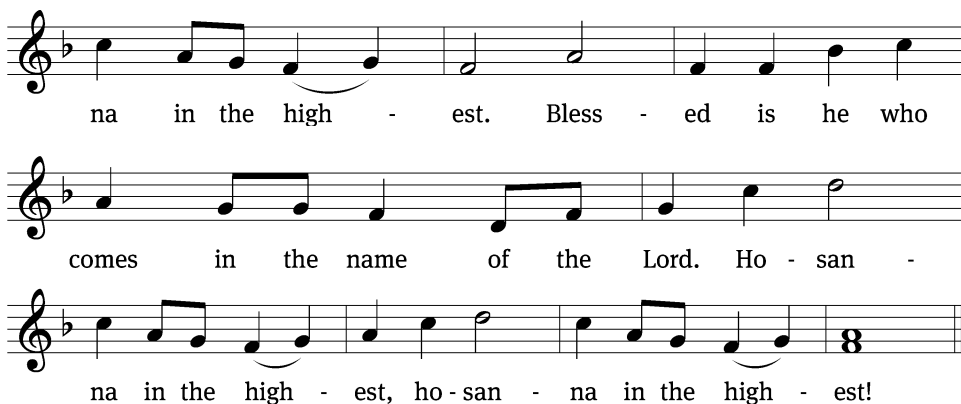
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us assurance and hope that, following their example, we may run the race marked out for us and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy





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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

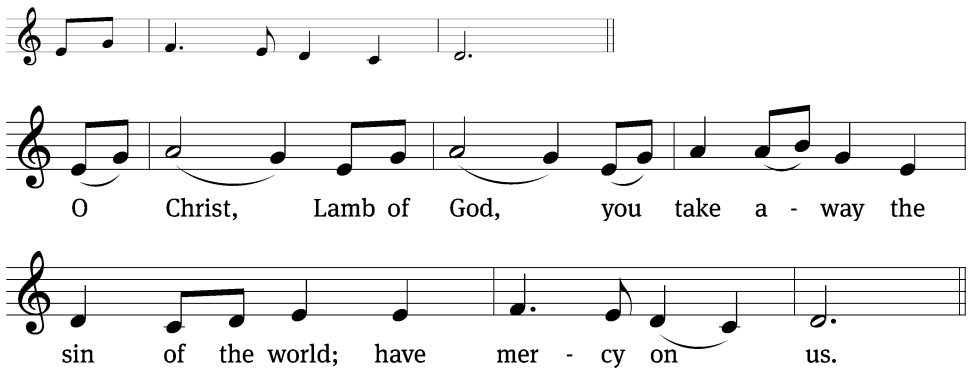
Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my $\dagger$ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my $\dagger$ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A - men. A - men.

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Distribution Hymn

572 Not What My Hands Have Done

1 Not what my hands have done can save my guilt - y
2 Thy work a - lone, O Christ, can ease this weight of
3 I bless the Christ of God, I rest on love di -
4 I praise the God of grace, I trust his truth and

soul, not what my toil - ing flesh has borne can
sin, thy blood a - lone, O Lamb of God, can
vine, and with un - fal - t'ring lip and heart I
might. He calls me his, I call him mine, my

make my spir - it whole. Not what I feel or
give me peace with - in. Thy love to me, O
call this Sav - ior mine. His cross dis - pels each
God, my joy, my light. My Lord has saved my

do can give me peace with God, not all my prayers and
God, not mine, O Lord, to thee can rid me of this
doubt; I bur - y in his tomb each thought of un - be -
life, and free - ly par - don gives; I love be - cause he

sighs and tears can bear my aw - ful load.
dark un - rest and set my spir - it free.
lief and fear, each lin - g'ring shade of gloom.
first loved me, I live be - cause he lives.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, abr.
Tune: George W. Martin, 1828–1881, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn 667 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, you have pre - pared this feast for
2 Al - though you did to heav'n as - cend, where an - gel
3 Yet, Sav - ior, you are not con - fined to an - y
4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, your pre - cious

our sal - va - tion; it is your bod - y
hosts are dwell - ing, and in your pres - ence
hab - i - ta - tion, but you are pres - ent
Word be - liev - ing that your true bod - y



and your blood, and at your in - vi - ta - tion
 they be - hold your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
 ev - 'ry - where and with your con - gre - ga - tion.
 and your blood our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



as wea - ry souls, with sin op-pressed, we come to
 and though your peo - ple shall not see your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, and there is



you for need - ed rest, for com - fort, and for par - don.
 and your maj - es - ty till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 naught you can - not do, for you, Lord, are al - might - y.

- 5 Though reason cannot understand,
 yet faith this truth embraces:
 your body, Lord, is even now
 at once in many places.
 I leave to you how this can be;
 your Word alone suffices me;
 I trust its truth unfailing.

- 6 Lord, I believe what you have said;
 help me when doubts assail me.
 Remember that I am but dust,
 and let my faith not fail me.
 Your supper in this vale of tears
 refreshes me and stills my fears
 and is my priceless treasure.

7 Grant that we worthily receive
your supper, Lord, our Savior,
and, truly grieving for our sins,
may prove by our behavior
that we are thankful for your grace
and day by day may run our race,
in holiness increasing.

8 For your consoling supper, Lord,
be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
the world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be
a blessed comfort unto me
when living and when dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603–1668; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841–1931, alt.
Tune: Peter Sohren, c. 1630–c. 1692, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our
love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

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.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

640 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage



God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -
ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, alt.
Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924
Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt | **Preaching Minister:** Pastor Kenneth Frey

Organist: Ben Warmuth | **Elder:** Jacob Pelas

Altar Guild: Helen Hacht and Jan Lazzaroni | **Projectionist:** Helen Hacht

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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