

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

Reformation Sunday - October 25, 2026

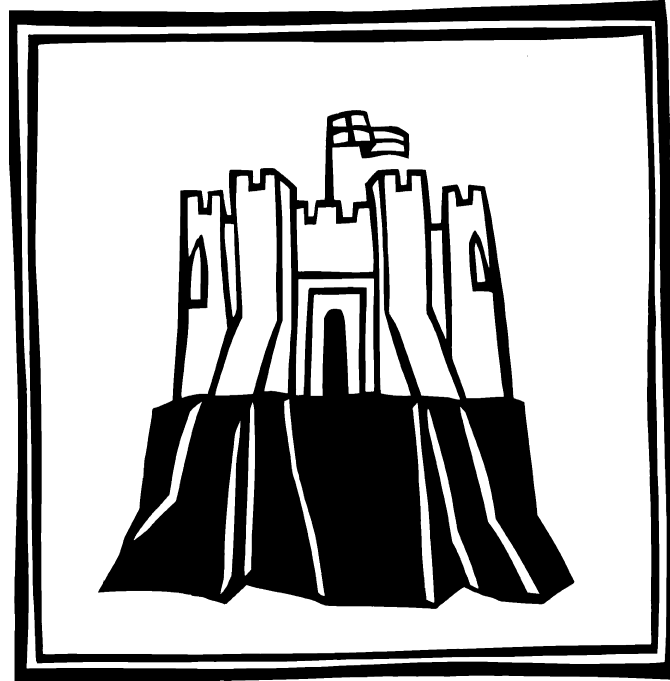
Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

69 Mill Street • Athens, OH • (740) 593-3144

info@clcathens.org • www.clcathens.org

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.



SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Pastor Chad Huebner; Organist: Bekah Davenport; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Viola: Lydia Kress; Autoharp: Kayden Brafford; Asst/Lector: Greg Newton; Time with Children: Pr. Chad; Acolyte: Chad Kopenski; Tray Server: Pam Cochran; Greeters: Jill Doose, JoAnne J'Heureux; Ushers: John Laughlin, Linda Batey; Livestream: Greg Dreitzler*

WELCOME

(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)

Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell, and Fort Ancient cultures.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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 squandered your bountiful gifts.

**We have considered
the blessings of the harvest our due.**

**We have been indifferent
in planning and planting
for the future needs of your Church.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us,
cause gratitude to ripen in our hearts,
and wisdom to mature in our minds,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you
with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts
through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (alternate translation) (ELW 505)*



1 A migh - ty for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 If we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing turns to
 3 Though all the world with dev - ils fill and threat - en to de -
 4 God's Word shall stand a - bove the pow'rs, shall end all their thanks-



fail - ing; our help - er frees us from the flood of
 los - ing; the righ - teous one fights by our side, the
 vour us, we trem - ble not, we trust God's will: they
 giv - ing. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe,
 one of God's own choos - ing. You ask who this may be:
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Though Sa - tan rant and rage,
 God with us is liv - ing. Let goods and kin - dred go,



for - sworn to work us woe, with guile and dread - ful might
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name.
 in fierc - est war en - gage, this ty - rant's doomed to fail;
 this mor - tal life al - so; though all of these be gone,



is armed to wage the fight: on earth there is no e - qual.
 No oth - er God we claim! None else can win the bat - tle.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word shall tri - umph.
 they yet have noth - ing won. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805–1890, alt.
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546
 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

(tune: *My Father, How Long*)

Leader sings parts marked "A"

Congregation sings parts marked "C"



A: We — pray for peace, O Lord, make plow-shares of our swords, make plow-shares of our



swords, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on us, Lord, have mer-cy on — us, hear us when we cry to you.



A: Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un - til we see your



face, hear us when we cry to you. C: Christ, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on us, Christ have mer-cy on — us, hear us when we cry to you.



A: De - fend your Church, O Lord, and root it in — your word, and root it in — your



word, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on — us, Lord, have mer-cy on — us, hear our cry. A - men.

(VERSES 1 & 4 ONLY)

Canticle of Praise, "O Sing of God's Great Victory!"

(tune: *The Shepherd's Daughter
and the King*)



1. O sing of God's great vic - to - ry! Je - sus' blood has set us free!
2. This is the feast of vic - to - ry Of the glo - rious Lamb a - bove.
3. O is it not a mys - ter - y That our Lord a Lamb should be,
4. All hon - or, bless - ing, glo - ry, might Sing the hosts to Christ on high,



Let all his crea - tures join our songs, For to Christ the throne be - longs
Now all God's peo - ple gath - er 'round For the ban - quet of God's love.
Who on the cru - el cross was slain, But a - rose in heav'n to reign.
All pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom strength. Now let all on earth re - ply:



Sing we al - le - lu - ia, prais - es to the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

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

PSALM: Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
- ³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**
- ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN (Verse 1 only)

1. O God, whose Word well - plant - ed Yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
2. O God of seed and har - vest, Of — sun and soil and rain,
3. O God, Your fi - nal har - vest Of — his - t'ry's an - cient field

We praise your grac - es grant - ed To — those who sowed of old,
At - tend the Word we sow lest Its — plant - ing be in vain.
Will test with Truth the proud - est That hu - man work can yield.

Who by their wit - ness scat - tered Good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of Your Spir - it, Bright sun - shine of Your Grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, Fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;

Where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered The har - vest of their toil.
That — mul - ti - tudes who hear it Your Gos - pel may em - brace.
And — love and joy will flour - ish To — clothe the earth with peace.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

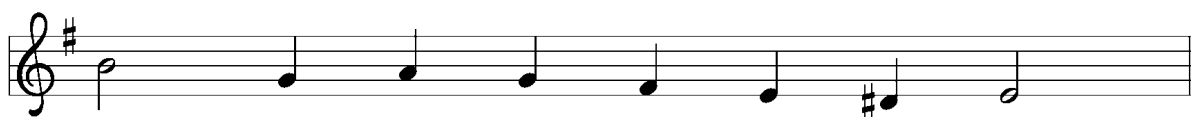
HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* (ELW 517)



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world and all people according to their needs.

Dear God, thank you for this opportunity to worship together today, and for this time with one another. We are here together today, all at different points in our lives, some younger, some older, some have been at this church for many years, and some may be here for the first time today. We all bring our different experiences and perspectives, but we are united as one family by you. We are each siblings in Christ, and we thank you for loving us, caring for us and blessing us in so many different ways. Please help us this week as we answer our calling to share our blessings and your love with those we meet every day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Love, we all face our own challenges and it's often easy to focus on what we may need to do at work, at home or with other points in our lives. At times, we may not know what to do or which way to turn, but we are called to remember the greatest commandment, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and the commandment of "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Please help us this week to remember these commandments and to carry them out in numerous ways in our lives. And please also help us to remember that while we are all different in so many ways, we are all Your children because You made us in Your image. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, at this time when we see so much war, turmoil and fear in the world, we ask you to please be with everyone whose lives are filled with danger of any sort. We ask you to also help our leaders around the world to work for peace instead of conflict. Please protect those who serve in the military, comfort military families and bless our veterans. Please also bless those who are impacted by war and violence, so they may be safe and they can live in peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Compassion, we ask you to comfort those experiencing grief and loss and to relieve those who are suffering. Please also bring strength to those who are hospitalized, confined to homes, or undergoing tests. We pray for healing for anyone who is ill in mind, body, or spirit. Restore to wholeness those who are struggling with addictions. Bless our shut-ins and help us to bring them joy. Please hear us now as we ask for blessings for those we name aloud or in our hearts..... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Comfort, be with those to whom death draws near and those who have lost loved ones. Bring peace and comfort to all who mourn; knowing with the conviction of our faith that because you so loved the world that you gave your Chosen Son, who died and rose again, we too will have eternal life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions on how to text to give or download our church app!

MUSICAL OFFERING

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

CLC Choir

OFFERTORY



1. Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring To place up - on your ta - ble.
2. The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3. Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares We lift in pray'r be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought But on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dai - ly food Be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace, now come to us As hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God,
You bless us with gifts of guidance, new life,
growth in grace, and fruitful labor.
Accept the first fruits of time and toil,
field and orchard we offer here.
Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture
and the care of your creation;
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Through your Son, you taught us that true riches are to be found in loving you
rather than earthly treasure.

For your glory, and to give us the fullness of life and salvation, Christ emptied himself upon the
cross and was raised in power to sit at your right hand.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join in adoring song:

(VERSES 1&3 ONLY)

Sanctus

(tune: *Shady Grove*)

Verses (sung by leader)



1. Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the scrip - tures do re - cord, I -
2. High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes flow - ing through the hall, while
3. O what a sight it — was to see and — O what a sound to hear. The



sa - iah to the tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
six - wing - ed an - gels flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
tem - ple door - posts shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain (sung by all)



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's



glo - ry fills the whole wide earth, God of pow - er and might.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your Church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.
Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

1. O Lamb of God, _____ to earth you came _____ To
2. O Lamb of God, _____ the on - ly Son, _____ To

save us all _____ from grief and shame. _____ Shorn of your life, _____ up -
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. _____ You save the world _____ from

on the tree _____ You hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty. _____
all its sin. _____ Lord, give to us your peace. A - men. _____

COMMUNION

(Whatever the state of your faith today, ALL are invited to the Lord's table. No Exceptions. To receive communion, come forward at the ushers' direction and take a place at the altar rail. You may stand or kneel as you wish. You will first receive the bread, then you may choose either red wine or white grape juice in a small glass, or sip wine from the chalice. If you choose a small glass, you will place it in the empty tray carried by the acolyte. After receiving the bread and wine, you will return to your seat.)

COMMUNION HYMN (Sung during the distribution)



1. We praise you for the life that stirs When spring-time warms the
 2. We praise you for the sum - mer sun, For rip'n - ing grain and
 3. We sing your praise for au - tumn's glow, For har - vest yield from
 4. We sing your praise thru' win - ter's night When earth in fro - zen
 5. We praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, And praise the Spir - it,



sleep - ing earth; But most, we praise the Grace that lures Our
 length - ened days; But most, we praise you for the Son Whose
 spring - time seed. Up - on our hearts your grace be - stow Till
 si - lence lies, For pro - mise of re - turn - ing light, For
 with the throng Of saints and an - gels joined as one In



slum-b'ring souls to love and mirth, Our slum-b'ring souls to love and mirth.
 Lightbrings heal - ing in his rays, Whose Lightbrings heal - ing in his rays.
 faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed, Till faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed.
 life in Christ that nev - er dies, For life in Christ that nev - er dies.
 grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song, In grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION (Verse 1 only)

1. O Lord of the blossom, O God of the seed, O gracious pro -
2. O Lord of the harvest, O God of the feast, Where sor - rows are

vi - der for all hu - man need, You have nour - ished our faith at your
van - quished and joys are in - creased, Where the tree of life grows in your

ta - ble of grace, And nur - tured new life in the light of your face.
or - chards a - bove, We'll join in the cho - rus in praise of your love.

O Lord of the grain - field, O God of the vine, You've fed us your
Sing praise to the Fa - ther, Sing praise to the Son, Sing praise to the

pres - ence in bread and in wine. In com - mun - ion you've blest to us
Spir - it. Praise God, Three in One! You have made us one peo - ple you've

ar - bor and plow, And shown us the Gos - pel, your Word for us now.
fed by the hand, O Lord of the heav - ens, O God of the land.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG***The Church of Christ, in Every Age (ELW 729)***

1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.