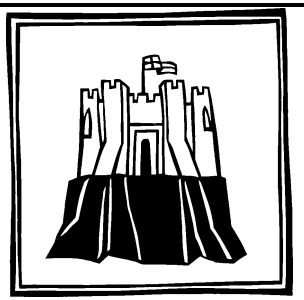
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.



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.

Today, we thank Pastor Paul Townsend for leading our Reformation Service.

Pastor Christian McMullan
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

2440 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania
610-458-5675
www.stmatthews-church.org

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WELCOME

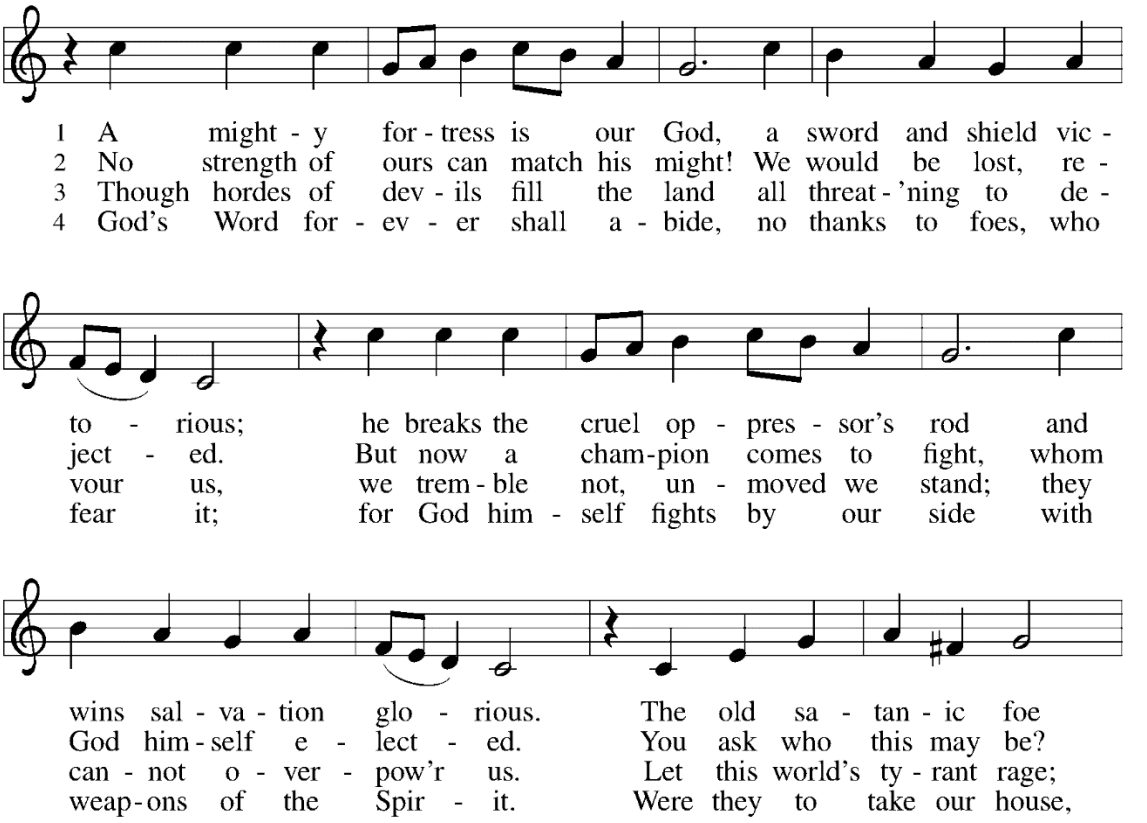
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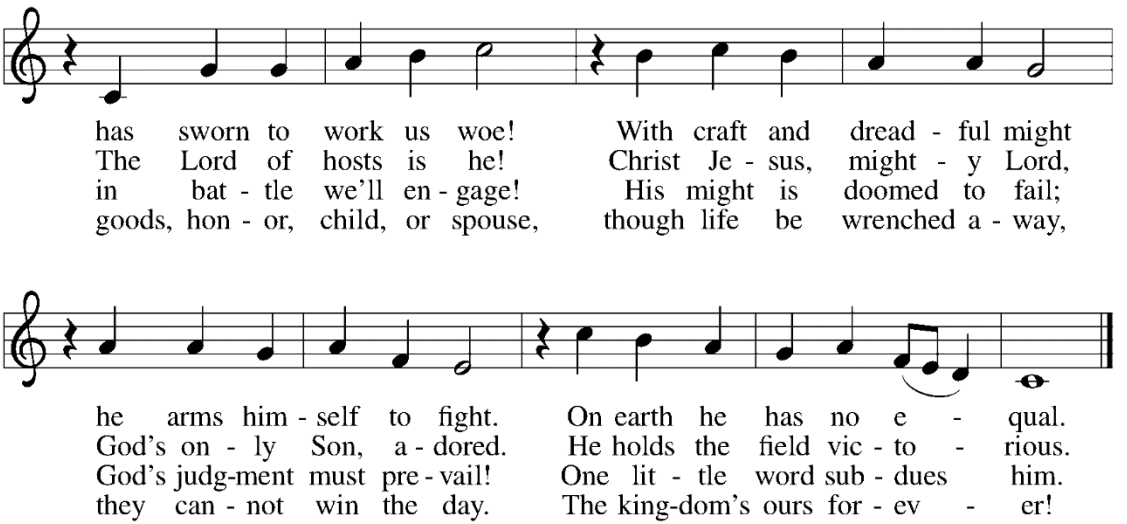
GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN — A Mighty Fortress is Our God ELW 504





CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P:Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.
P: Confident that God restores us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,
C: we confess that we struggle to live out your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Nature groans from our overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Apathy keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions stop us from showing genuine love
to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to you and one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

P: Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: 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 us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us 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.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

A: A reading from the Book of Jeremiah, the thirty-first chapter.

[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.

P: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

A: A reading from the Book of Romans, the third chapter.

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 being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law
comes the knowledge of sin.
21 But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by
the law and the prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through faith in 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 show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed
over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to prove at the present time that he himself is
righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.
27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but
by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed
by the law.

P: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Precious Lord, Take My Hand ELW 773

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.

Take My Hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

GOSPEL John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.
C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON: Grace, Faith, Works, Unity **Pastor Paul Townsend**

HYMN **They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love**

We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

And they’ll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they’ll know we are Christians
By our love

We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together we’ll spread the news
That God is in our land

And they’ll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they’ll know we are Christians
By our love

We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love

THE PRAYERS

P: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.
A brief silence.

P: …Hear us, O God.
C: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Please stand

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of creation,
you send rain and the earth is abundantly fruitful.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
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 God thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
In the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals
The seas and stars were whole and well giving you praise.
When sin had scarred the world,
You sent your Son to call us to yourself,
to heal our ills, and to form us again into one.

> 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave,
We await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Holy Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
Strengthen us to serve all who are hungry and in need,
And by this bread and cup form us into the body of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy church,
both now and forever.
C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
C: 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.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and forgiving love.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your freedom, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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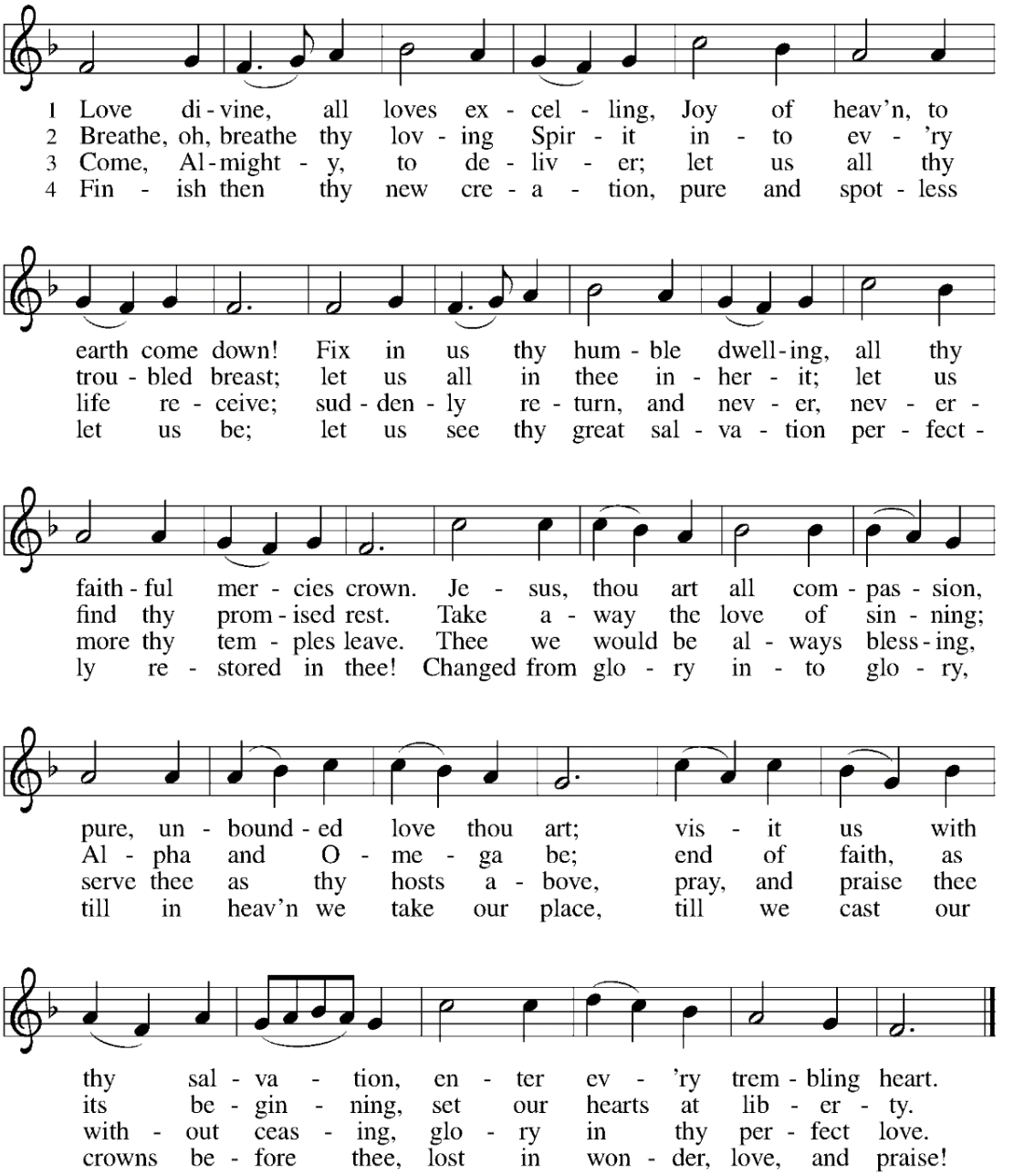
BLESSING

P: The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.
C: Amen.

P: The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: The God of grace
☩ bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

HYMN **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ELW 631**



DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
C: Thanks be to God.

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