Reformation Sunday & Tanzania Celebration Sunday
October 25, 2026 + 10:00am

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
A brief silence.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.



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. **Amen.**

Gathering Song ***"Come, All You People"*** *ELW #819*



Text: Alexander Gondo; tr. I-to Loh, b. 1936, alt.
Music: UYAIMOSE, Alexander Gondo
Text and music © 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music

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.

Hymn of Praise





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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading — Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

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.

32It 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 married to them, says the Lord.

33But 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. 34No 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.

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

1 God is our ref- | uge 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 cit- | y 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 up- | on 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**

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

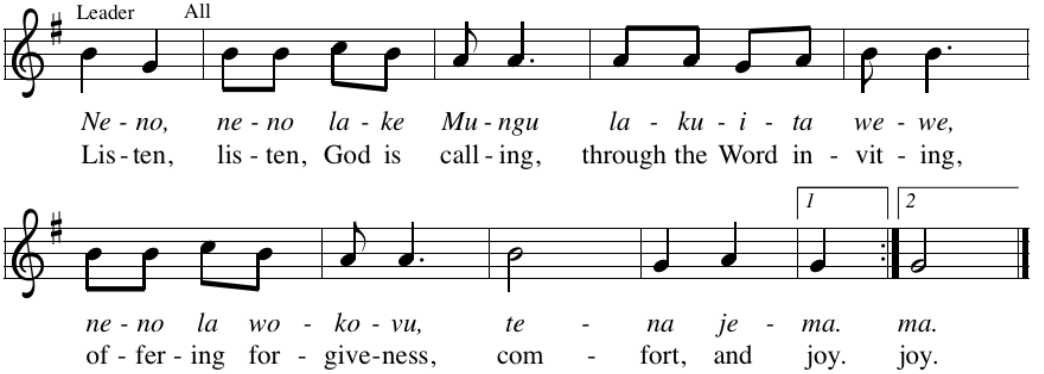
Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every
mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20]For no human will
be justified before God by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge
of sin.

[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 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 God's 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. This was to demonstrate
God's righteousness, because in divine forbearance God had passed over the sins previously
committed; [26]it was to demonstrate at the present time God's own righteousness, so that God is
righteous and that God 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.

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Announcement
The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel **John 8:31-36**

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

> Jesus said to the Judeans 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

Thanksgiving for Baptism



Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

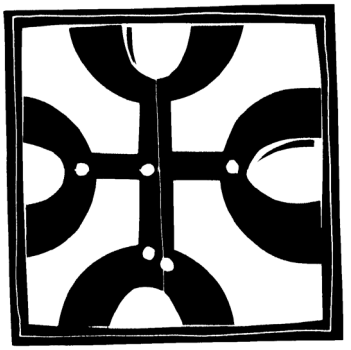
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn of the Day ***"Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand"*** *ACS #1024*



Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966
Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA, Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer
Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik
English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik



Masai Creed

The Maasai Creed was written in 1960 by the Maasai people of East Africa in collaboration with missionaries from the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. The creed is an expression of the Maasai people's faith, and it retells the Christian story in the context of the Maasai's Mara plains.

We believe in the one High God of love who created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created man and wanted man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe in the world. We have known this God in darkness, and we now know God in the light. God promised in his book the Bible that he would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

We believe that God made good on his promise by sending his son, Jesus Christ, a man by the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari, doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing that the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is lord.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry about their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live by the rules of love and share the bread together, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need.
At the end of each petition the Assembly responds: **your mercy is great.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well! ***Thank you for your generosity!***

Offering Song



Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God of creation,

you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
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. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

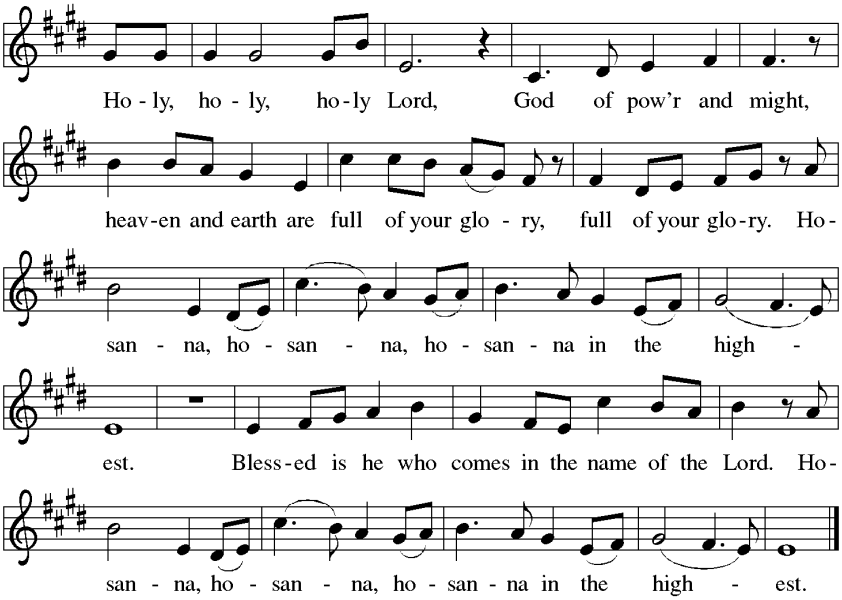
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed, right our duty and our joy….
…. we praise your name and join their unending hymn:.



The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.

The Assembly responds when prompted:

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. *…*

… all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *…*

… sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. *…*

At the conclusion of the prayer, the assembly responds: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

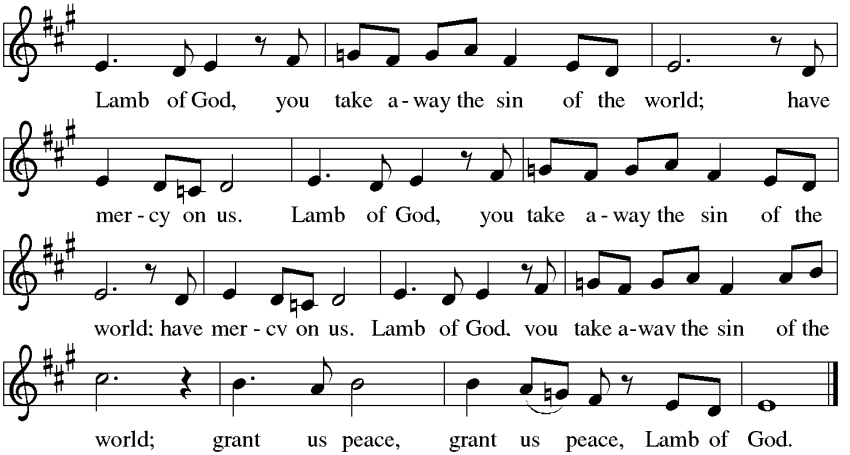
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

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

Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words



Communion Song ***"Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*** *ELW #535*

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. Sustaining God,

with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

The holy Three, the holy One increase your hope, strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and ✠ grant you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ***"We Are Marching in the Light"*** *ELW #866*



Additional stanzas ad lib.:
We are dancing …
We are praying …
We are singing …

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984
Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional
Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

Announcements

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.



We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówi, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.

Serving Today

Altar Flowers:	Jan Brandies
	In Celebration of October Birthdays
Assisting Minister:	Cayla Julius
Readers:	Cherie Julius
	Margaret Robinson
Usher:	Linda Bagley
Altar Guild:	Jeanne Schierstedt & Jane Wilson
Musician:	Paul Berge
Pastors:	The Rev. Kathy Brown
	The Rev. John Bischoff
	The Rev. Matt James
	The Rev. Allison Johnson

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Upcoming Commemorations

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters

Monday, October 26, 2026

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

Reformation Day

Saturday, October 31, 2026

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

Texts for Next Sunday, November 1st, All Saints Sunday

Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

