



Sunday, October 25 ~ Reformation Sunday

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.

Prelude: Chorale Prelude on "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott" (ELW #504) Dietrich Buxtehude

Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

If possible, prepare your worship space with a cup filled with water and an empty bowl. The presence of water reminds us of God's forgiveness that comes to us through the Sacrament of Baptism. During this time of physical distance and fasting from the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we cling with confident hope to the promise that by God's love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism.

Call to Worship:

Gracious God, we bring you the broken parts of ourselves.

Hem us in before and behind.

Creator God, we bring you the joyful parts of ourselves.

Weave us together in hope and praise.

God of new life, we bring you doubt and faith knotted up in our hearts.

Unravel our doubt. Weave faith into our hearts. Draw us together and point us toward you.

In grace, in faith, in word we pray.

In grace, in faith, in word we worship.

As we gather, we confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen

Giving thanks that we become brothers and sisters in Christ through the gift of baptism, we share God's peace with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

Gathering Hymn :

Rise, O Sun of Righteousness

#657



1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your
2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your
3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us
4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the
5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the



might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,
word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim
wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share
heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death
ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:



show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.
prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.
in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.
with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.
make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, Lord.

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958

Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

Text © 2003 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.

Prayer of the Day:

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

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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.

³¹The 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 their husband, 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;

he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;

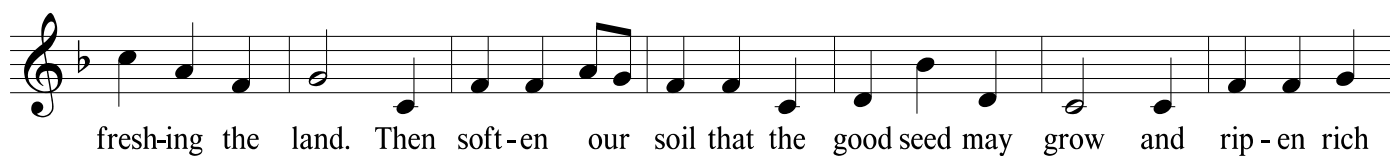
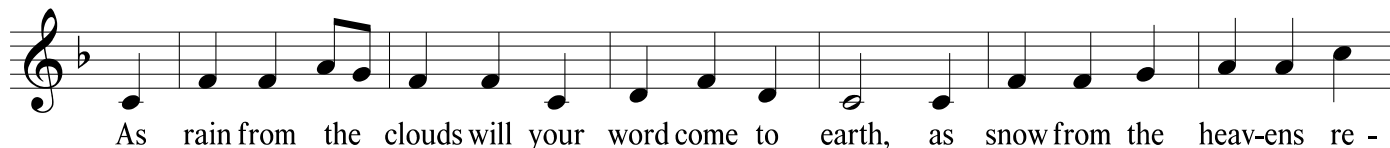
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song of Thanksgiving

ELW 508, vs 1



The 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.

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

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.
³⁶So 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:

That Priceless Grace

#591



1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less
2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less
3 That pain-ful death, that pain-ful death, that pain-ful
4 That pre-cious word, that pre-cious word, that pre-cious



grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.
blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.
death took sins a - way: Je - sus' death is price-less grace.
word, which brought me light: Je - sus' word is price-less grace.



That price - less grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949
Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Apostles Creed:

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

Though we meet virtually, the ministry of God's people at BLC continues. Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. This time of uncertainty and reduced physical contact gives us ever more opportunities to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. If you are able, please continue your financial commitment to BLC.

If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.



Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.

Offering of Music:

“Shine”

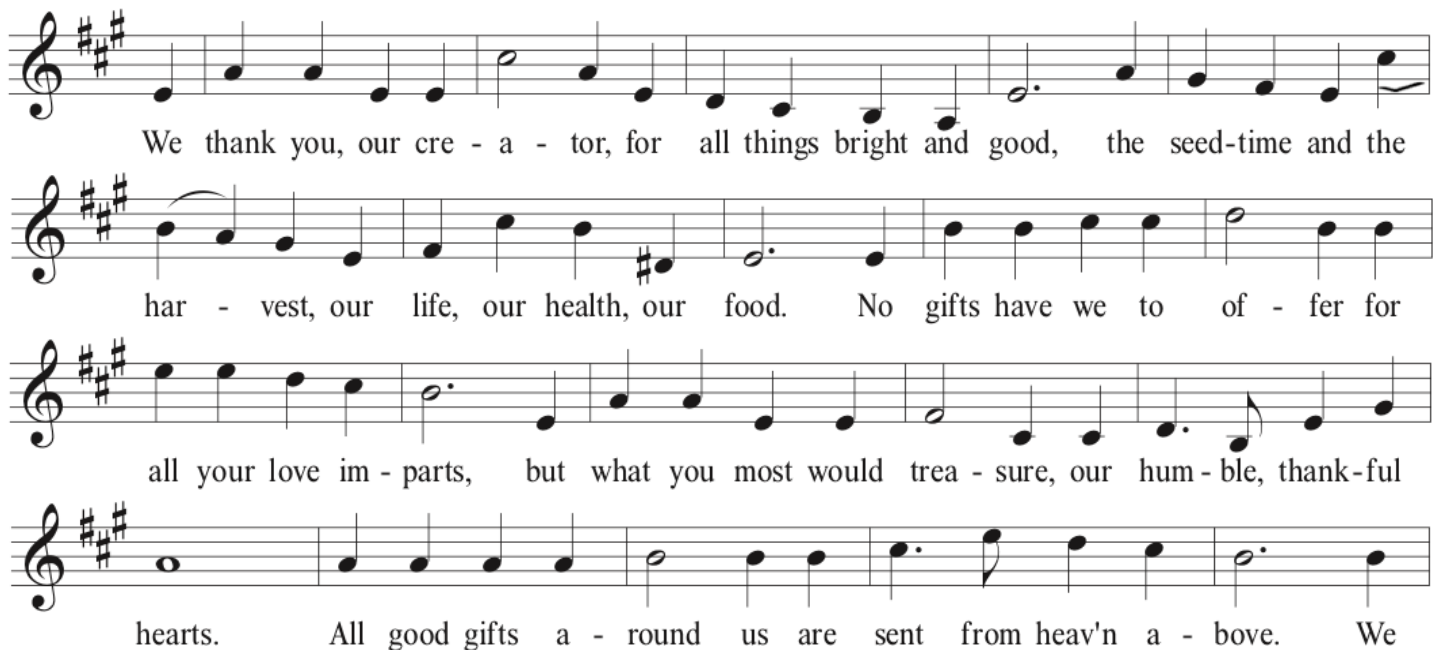
Words & music by Kathy Troccoli, Jeff Franzel, & Rick Witkowski
Youth Choir

(Director, Annette Finkbeiner; Bob Stock, Vocals; Phyllis Stock, piano)

Offertory:

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

#681 vs. 3



We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good, the seed-time and the
har - vest, our life, our health, our food. No gifts have we to of - fer for
all your love im - parts, but what you most would trea - sure, our hum - ble, thank - ful
hearts. All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove. We

We pray for those who seek healing, especially:

- Ed (neighbor of Bob & Phyllis) who is hospitalized with pneumonia
- Trace (3 year old grandson of Jan & Howard) who is recovering from surgery on 10/22
- Waverly (friend of Phyllis) recovering at home and still seeking a kidney donor
- Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters
- Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones
- Those who are infected with the Coronavirus and their caregivers especially
 - Mary
 - Phyllis, mother of Paulette's sister-in-law

We also pray for these members of our Bethlehem family: Al and Marcy, Marshall and Lou, Pat and Ruth, Bill and Mary, Lil and our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Loving God – you are our refuge and strength. Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Benediction:

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you will all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn:

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Today's sending hymn is a collaboration of several congregations in the Genesee Finger Lakes Conference. Due to the nature of the arrangement, two different translations of the text are used throughout the arrangement. Verses 1 and 4 are taken from hymn #505 in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) (credited to Martin Luther, tr. Frederick H. Hedge, alt. © 2006, Augsburg Fortress). Verses 2 and 3 are taken from ELW #503 (credited to Martin Luther, tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress). The rhythm and melody change from verses 1 to 2 and from 3 to 4.

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper frees us from the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe,
forsworn to work us woe,
with guile and dreadful might
is armed to wage the fight:
on earth there is no equal.

2. No strength of ours can match his might!
We should be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
Whom God himself elected.
Ask who this may be:
Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus mighty Lord,
God's only son adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3. Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpower us.
This world's prince may rage,
in fierce war engage.
He is doomed to fail;

God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4. God's Word shall stand above the pow'rs
shall end all their thanksgiving.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
for God with us is living.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
though all of these be gone,
they yet have nothing won.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Narthex Chats with GerryAnn Westcott & Sue Dunn

Postlude: Majestic Piece No. 1

Ronald Arnatt

Calendar for week of October 25 – November 1

(Updated on 10/21/20 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, October 25

Reformation Sunday

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship (recording
available following worship)
10:00 am Annual Congregational
Meeting
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, October 26

6:00 pm Virtual Youth Choir
([Join](#) or use ID 816 9461 2911)
7:00 pm Zoom* GFL
Confirmation
([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, October 27

10:00 am Worship Committee
Meeting ([Join](#) or use
ID 821 8707 2575)
6:00 pm BSA Troop 2019
Meeting

Wednesday, October 28

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, October 29

Friday, October 30

Pastor's Sabbath

10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal
3:00 pm Dulcimer Group
Rehearsal

Saturday, October 31

Sunday, November 1

All Saints' Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Ends! Turn clocks back one hour

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship followed by Holy
Communion – the sanctuary
will be open for people to
receive communion until 11 am.
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

For additional details about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at office@blcfairport.org and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy remains available by phone and email at other times.

***To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

***Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

Reflection

In an essay entitled "Grace," the writer Kathleen Norris recounts an experience at an airport departure gate where a young couple with an infant were waiting to depart.

"The baby was staring intently at other people, and as soon as he recognized a human face, no matter whose it was, no matter if it was young or old, pretty or ugly, bored or happy or worried-looking he would respond with absolute delight. It was beautiful to see. Our drab departure gate had become the gate of heaven. . . . I realized that this is how God looks at us, staring into our faces in order to be delighted, to see the creature he made and called good along with the creation."

Though the scenario she describes seems like a distant memory, is there any more enchanting image of a gracious God than this one captured by Norris? I can almost picture the ways that hardened road-warriors conducting one last business call before boarding the plane are unraveled by this smiling, cooing infant so delighted to see their faces, even when they are preoccupied with important work. A gift of grace indeed!

For Martin Luther, it wasn't an infant but St. Paul's words about God's grace that opened his faith to a new way of seeing and knowing God. *For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus* (Romans 3:23-24). In these words, a lifetime of trying to earn God's love and favor was undone as God's free grace unraveled Luther's life.

God's free gift of grace is the truth that has been written on our hearts. We do not earn it. We cannot achieve it. It is ours to receive freely. And this free gift of grace is the source of our worship and praise on this Reformation Sunday, October 25, and every day of our lives!

Graphic Design by Lauren Wright Pittman | Original photography by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Call to Worship by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

Confession from Sundays and Seasons Augsburg Fortress resources are being livestreamed by permission. All rights reserved.

From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43732.

Permission to stream and print the music in this service obtained from OneLicense under Annual License #A-724002

Reprinted by permission under CCLI Annual License #11159563

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education

Of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.