

**October 25, 2020**  
**Reformation Sunday/Confirmation**  
**St. James Trinity Lutheran Church**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Faithful God,

**C have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.  
Hear the truth that God proclaims:  
Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ.  
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world. **C Amen.**





1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not  
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is  
 5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly  
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our  
 ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -  
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with  
 prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.  
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.  
 world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.  
 Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887  
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**Prayer of the Day**

**P** Let us pray.

**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 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.**

## Psalm: Psalm 46

A <sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

**C <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

A <sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**C <sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

A <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

**C <sup>6</sup>The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

A <sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**C <sup>8</sup>Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

A <sup>9</sup>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.

**C <sup>10</sup>“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

A <sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## Scripture 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.*

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>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; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: John 8:31-36**

P The holy gospel according to John.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Rick Biedermann**

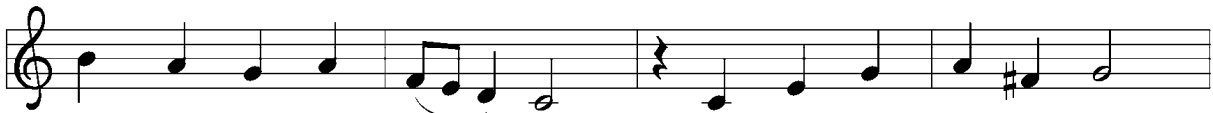




1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
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## Apostle's Creed

**C** 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.

## Prayers of Intercession

P With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *(A brief silence.)*

P Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy... **C hear our prayer.**

P As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind. Lord, in your mercy... **C hear our prayer.**

P Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy...  
**C hear our prayer.**

P Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill (especially...). Lord, in your mercy... **C hear our prayer.**

*Prayers: especially...*

*Bruce Steinke, Bill Tumm and Dick Mandehr as well as those we name aloud or in our hearts.*

P We pray for our nation and the world during this time of pandemic. Protect the most vulnerable among us, and all who are currently sick or in isolation and health care workers, as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. We pray for those working to find a vaccine. Give us courage to face this time with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; Lord, in your mercy ... **C hear our prayer.**

P In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy... **C hear our prayer.**  
*(Here other intercessions may be offered.)*

P 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... **C hear our prayer.**

P 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. **C Amen.**

## Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**C And also with you.**

## Offering

## Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

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.**

### Holy Communion

"The body of Christ given for you."..... " The blood of Christ shed for you."

### Prayer after Communion

P Let us pray.

**C We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.  
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard  
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,  
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ  
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**





1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**Blessing**

P Mothering God,  
 Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C Amen.

**Dismissal**

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

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## Announcements

- **ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY** – On All Saints Sunday, November 1st, it has been our tradition at SJT to read the names of those dear to us that have passed away in the last 3 years. To submit a name (or names) to be read during worship, please follow the link below or call Laurel at 715-828-5596. **Submissions need to be received by tomorrow, October 26th.**  
<https://forms.gle/fxtBFkcgQqP13G138>
- **CONFIRMATION TODAY** – Today after worship, our 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be confirmed individually due to the Coronavirus. We are proud to be part of their faith journey. Congratulations to Morgan Elmhurst, Sullivan Monnier, Elizabeth Kent, Kambel Sell, and Emallie Sorensen.