United Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 2026

WORSHIP PREPARATION PRAYER

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

To all in attendance today:

- Please fill out the attendance form found as an insert in the Weekly Witness and place it in the woven basket in the Narthex as you leave.
- You may take your used bulletin and Weekly Witness with you or place them in the basket in the Narthex.
- If you are unable to come to the altar, please indicate your desire for communion to an usher.

♦ Congregation Stands P = Pastor A = Assistant C = Congregation

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

♦ **GATHERED IN GRATITUDE**

C Baptized into the Body of Jesus Christ and Nourished by His Supper, we are United in Gratitude, Living Everywhere the Love of the Triune God.

P Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

C Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

P For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. ***Psalm 100:3-5***

♦ **GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS**

P The Lord is with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us share that greeting with one another.

♦ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one ✠ God, who pursues us unconditionally, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen

P Almighty God, who sees and searches us completely; who knows the depth of our darkness: shine the Light of Christ into our hearts, enliven us with your Spirit, that we may witness the lordship of your Love and Mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P In the presence of God and of one another, let us confess our separation from God's mercy and love.

(silence for self-examination)

P Gracious God,

C restore us to your mercy. We confess that we have turned from our baptismal, Christ-identity, and handed our lives over to the power of other identities and authorities.
We recognize our betrayal and repent. By your mercy, restore us to your lordship; animate us with your Spirit so that the mercy and love of Jesus Christ our Lord may spill from us into our community. Amen.

P God, the Good Shepherd, is ceaseless mercy and love and pursues us even when we have turned away. By grace you are restored to God's Fold. May the grace with which God has pursued and captured you, be the grace which blesses your neighbors.

C Amen

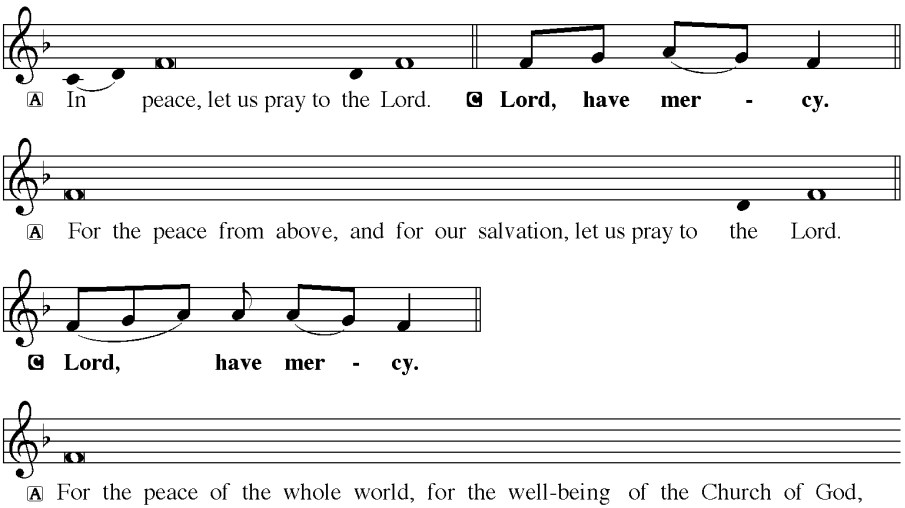
♦ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** ***"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"***
ELW #504

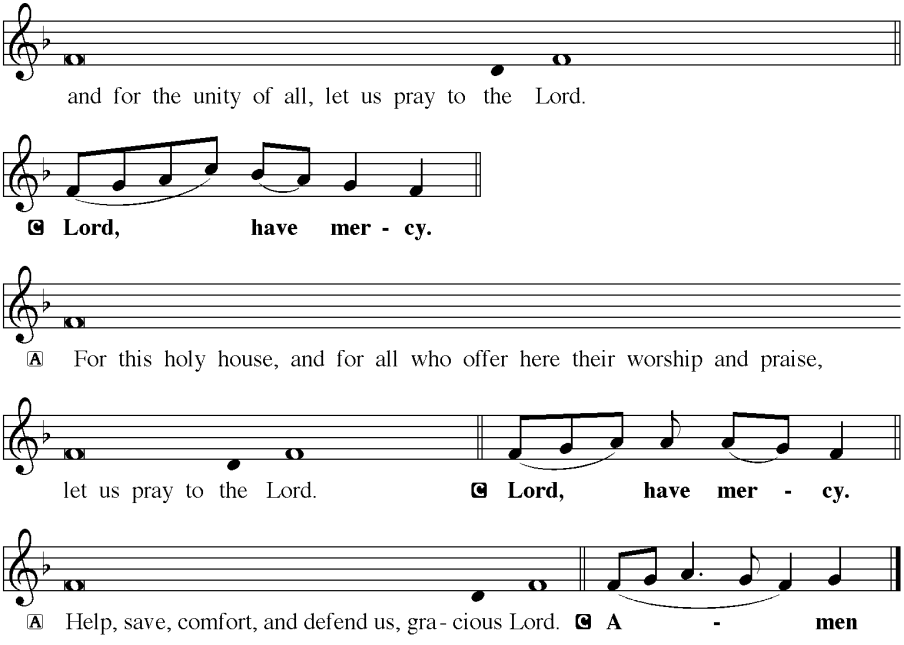
♦ **GREETING**

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

C And also with you.

♦ **KYRIE**




and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer - cy.
A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mer - cy.
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.
C A - men

♦ **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

♦ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Almighty God, gracious Lord,

C by your Holy Spirit, renew your church. By your Holy Spirit, create us to be 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 your church your peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST LESSON ***Jeremiah 31:31-34***

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.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM ***Psalm 46***

Cantor chants the fine printed verses & refrain.
The congregation chants the bold printed verses & refrain.

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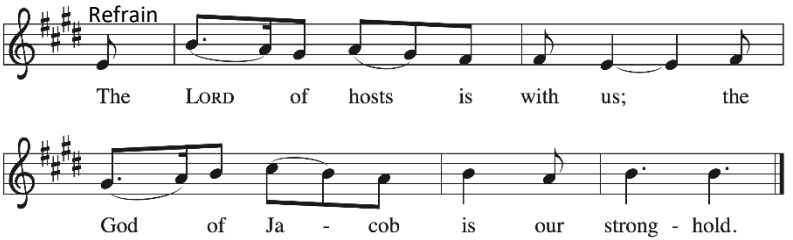


[1] God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
[2] **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
[3] though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
[4] **There 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. **Refrain.**

SECOND LESSON ***Romans 3:19-28***

[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.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

♦ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

♦ **GOSPEL** ***John 8:31-36***

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 8th 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 our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON **Pastor Anthony**

HYMN OF THE DAY ***"Listen, God Is Calling"***
ELW #513

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 GOD'S PEOPLE**

Each petition will end with the pastor saying, "Lord, in your mercy" . . .
The congregation responds with . . . "Hear our prayer."

♦ **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

UNITED LUTHERAN CHOIR ***"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"***

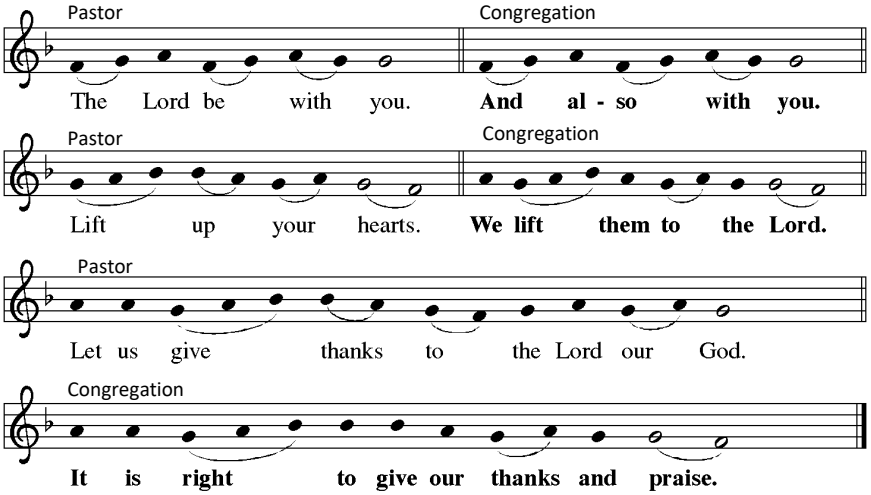
♦ **OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

♦ **OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of Abundance,

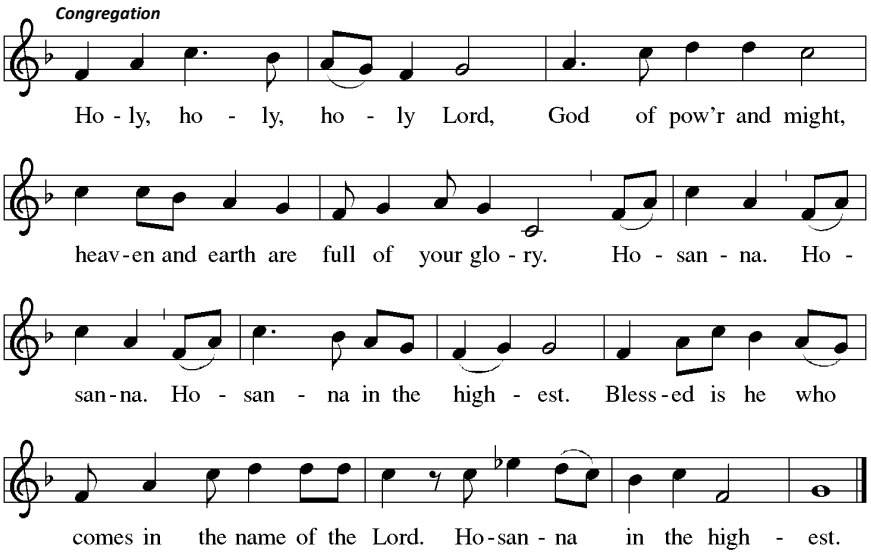
C surrounded by the logic of scarcity, we live by your Promise of Abundance. It is by that Promise that we give of ourselves. In our giving may we be the witness for which our community thirsts, namely, the living evidence that you are a God of Abundance. Amen.

♦ **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



P It is indeed right, . . . join their unending hymn:

♦ **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



♦ **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.

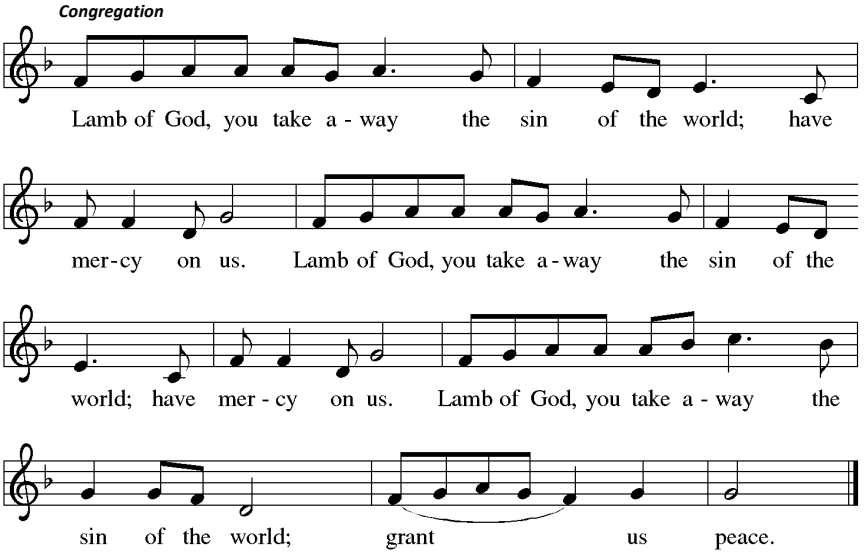
♦ **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Jesus Christ died and was raised for sinners. We qualify.

At United we practice Open Communion.
Those who will receive forgiveness of sins are welcome to the Table.
The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light-colored liquid is grape juice.
For those who need an alternative to wheat flour wafers, gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN ***"O Lamb of God"***



♦ **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthens you and keeps you in his grace.

C Amen

♦ **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P Crucified Lord,

C you have known us according to our deepest selves, yet you have called us to your table. We have betrayed and denied you in our daily lives, yet you have desired to feed us. You know our wavering commitments, yet you have desired to feed and equip us for your ministry. May the table fellowship to which you have invited us today be the model for how we treat others this coming week. Amen.

♦ **BENEDICTION**

P Now receive the Benediction.
(Congregation: Face your neighbor.)

C The Lord blesses you and keeps you;
The Lord's face shines upon you and is gracious to you;
The Lord looks upon you with favor and gives you peace.

♦ **DISMISSAL**

A Go in Peace. Serve the Lord by taking care of one another.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SENDING PRAYER

Almighty God, grant that your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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Our Staff

Pastor—Rev. Dr. Neal J. Anthony
Office Manager—Lindsey Tienken
Choir Director—Julie Allen
Bookkeeper—Cheryl Wells
Financial Secretary—Denice Hoops

Altar Flowers

are provided today to the glory of God
by **Luanne Schwartzkopf**
in loving memory of her husband, Paul.

Worship Leaders for October 25	
Leadership Position	Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Acolyte	Marie Sandell
Book Bearer	Alexis Frazier
Cross Bearer	Tonia Green
Organist	Denice Hoops
Choir Accompanist	Brandi Sestak
Lector	Marv Jaques
Cantor	Delene McConnaha
Communion Assistants	Tonia Green & Marie Sandell
Usher & Greeter	Jack & Dianne Keech
Parking Lot Monitor	Dennis Heuke

Scriptures for November 1

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

Office Hours
Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Guidelines for Wedding, Baptism, and Funeral Services

Before setting a date or making plans for a wedding, baptism, or funeral, please contact the church office to clear a date. This is to ensure the availability of the pastor and facility. Baptisms and weddings are not done during the church season of Lent. Additionally, weddings are not held during Holy Week or busy church seasons.