

THE REFORMATION OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, October 25, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Welcome to worship at St. Matthew! To friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to visitors, we extend it sincerely; and to those seeking a church home, we offer fellowship with a living Redeemer. Come again!

+ CONNECT +

RINGING OF THE BELL

GATHERING SONG: "Thy Word"

Last time to CODA ⊕

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet — and a

light un - to my path. path. When I feel a - fraid, —

think I've lost my way, — Still You're there right be - side —

me. And noth - ing will I fear — as —

long as You are near, — Please be near me

D.C. al CODA ⊕ *CODA* ⊕

to the end. light un-to my path.

Now I will not forget your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side
And I will love you to the end. REFRAIN:

("Thy Word" by Michael W. Smith, copyright 1984 and 1992 Meadowgreen Music Co., CCLI Lic. #921494.)

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Waken our hearts, O Lord, our God;

C: **Make them ever watchful to serve You and Your purposes.**

L: Trouble us with the smallness of our vision and work.

C: **Trouble us with the greatness of Your command to make disciples of all nations.**

L: Trouble us with Your great love for sinners and our own slowness to make You our greatest love.

C: **Trouble us with the brevity of our lives and time, talent and treasure not invested in eternity.**

L: Comfort us by drawing us to Yourself with the cords of Your unfailing mercy.

C: **Comfort us, O Lord, with the assurance of our salvation and unending glory with You when we suffer and are afflicted.**

L: Rekindle in us a renewed desire for the coming of Your glorious kingdom

C: **When all wrongs will be made right, when everything that is broken will be made whole, and when we will trade a cross for a crown.**

ALL: In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

--Adapted from the Prayers of Martin Luther

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

SONG OF PRAISE: "Majesty"

Maj - es - ty, wor - ship His maj - es - ty.

Un - to Je - sus be all glo - ry, hon - or and

praise. Maj - es - ty, king - dom au -

thor - i - ty flow from His throne un - to His

own; His an - them raise. So ex - alt, lift up on

high the name of Je - sus. Mag - ni - fy, come glo - ri -

fy Christ Je - sus, the King. Maj - es - ty,

wor - ship His maj - es - ty; Je - sus who

died, now glo - ri - fied, King of all kings.

("Majesty" by Jack Hayford, copyright 1981 Rocksmith Music, c/o Trust Management, CCLI Lic. #921494.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, by the preaching of your servants the reformers, you made the light of the gospel shine clearly. Grant that we may know its saving power, faithfully defend it against all enemies, and joyfully proclaim it, for the salvation of people and the glory of your Name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ NURTURE +

GREETING TIME

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: Revelation 14:6-7

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 46

L: God is our refuge and strength,

C: **An ever-present help in trouble.**

L: Therefore we will not fear,

C: **Though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**

L: Though its waters roar and foam

C: **And the mountains quake with their surging.**

L: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

C: **The holy place where the Most High dwells.**

L: God is within her, she will not fall;

C: **God will help her at break of day.**

L: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

C: **The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

L: Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

C: **He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.**

L: He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;

C: **He burns the shields with fire.**

L: He says,

ALL: **"Be still, and know that I am God;**

L: I will be exalted among the nations,

C: I will be exalted in the earth."

ALL: The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter eight.

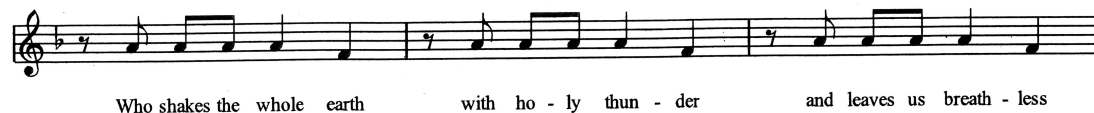
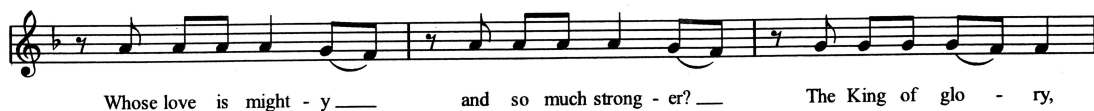
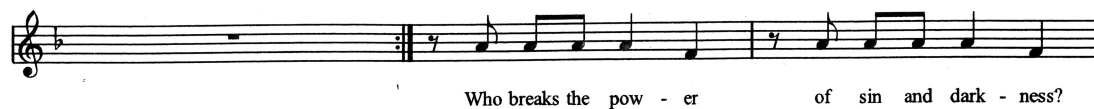
C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

SONG OF THE DAY: "This is Amazing Grace"



that You would bear my cross.

You laid down Your life that I would be set

To Coda

free. Oh, Je - sus, I sing for

all that You've done for me.

Who brings our chaos

back in - to or - der? Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?

The King of glory, the King of glory. Who rules the nations

with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance.

The King of glory, the King above all kings. Yeah,

D.S. al Coda

Coda

this is amazing grace, all that You've done for me.

Wor - thy is the Lamb who was slain.

— Wor - thy is the King — who con - quered the grave. —

Wor - thy is the Lamb who was slain. — Wor - thy is the King — who con -

- quered the grave. — Wor - thy is the Lamb who was slain. —

Wor - thy is the King — who con - quered the grave. —

Wor - thy is the Lamb who was slain. — Wor - thy, wor - thy, wor - thy! — Oh, —

— this is a - maz - ing — grace, — this is un - fail - ing — love, —

— that You would take my — place, —

that You would bear my — cross. — You — laid down Your — life —

— that I would be set free. —

— Oh, — Je - sus, I sing — for all that You've done for — me, —



*("This is Amazing Grace" by Wickham/Farro/Riddle, copyright 2013 Sing My Songs, etc.
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MESSAGE "Free Indeed: A sermon on John 8:31-36 for Reformation Sunday"

Dr. Samuel Deressa

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONG: "Grace Alone"



3 C C^{sus}/D C/E F G Am G/F F

ev - 'ry prayer and step of faith, ev - 'ry dif-f'rence
ev - 'ry heart we hope to teach, ev - 'ry - where we

6 C/E F2 Dm7 Gsus G

we share His peace is on-ly by His grace.
is on-ly by His grace.

9 C C^{sus}/D C/E Am C/G G/F C C^{sus}/D C/E



Ev - 'ry moun-tain we will climb, ev - 'ry ray of

Ev - 'ry lov - ing word we say, ev - 'ry tear we

12 F G Am G/F F C/E F²

hope we shine, ev - 'ry bless - ing left be - hind
wipe a - way, ev - 'ry sor - row turned to praise

15 Dm7 Gsus G C Csus/D C/E



is on - ly by His grace.
is on - ly by His grace.

Grace a -

17 **CHORUS** G/B C Csus/D C/E

lone which God sup-plies, strength un-

19 F G/B C Dm7 C/E

known He will pro-vide. Christ in

21 F E/G# Am C/G

us, our Cor - ner - stone, we will go

23 Dm7(4) F/G G13 2nd time to Coda 1. C Dm7 C/E

forth in grace a-lone.

25 Fmaj7/A G2/B G/B | 2. C Dm7 C/E D.S. al CODA

lone. Grace a -

⊕ CODA

27 Am C/G Dm7(4) rit. F/G G13 C

lone. We will go forth in grace a - lone.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" – Blue Hymnal #298

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now o'er taken
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabbath Lord, And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill, They shall not over pow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will
He can harm us none, He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

("A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License, #100014518.)

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Lisa Neaderhiser
Usher Team: Neaderhiser Team
Lector: Patti Kretschman
Acolyte: Josh Neaderhiser
Power Point: Aidan Neaderhiser
Altar Guild: Lisa Neaderhiser