

REFORMATION SUNDAY

A Mighty Fortress:

1. 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 dead arms in fight:
On earth is not his equal.
2. 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 Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.
3. 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.

4. The Word they still shall 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.
Good, fame, child, and wife.
Though these all begone,
Our vict’ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Confession: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, **an ever-present help in trouble.**

Our God is ever aware of our problems and fears.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, **though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.**

We have no business doubting him no matter what threatens us.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, **the holy place where the Most High dwells.**

God is within her, she will not fall; **God will help her at break of day.** Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; **he lifts his voice, the earth melts.**

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

His eternal plan is not cancelled out by the whims of man or natural disasters.

Come and see the works of the LORD, **the desolations he has brought on the earth.**

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; **he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.**

Refresh your flagging spirits with the reminder of his great feats throughout the ages.

Be still, and know that I am God; **I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.**

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

Lord, forgive us for all that we have done, said or thought that was against your will. Have mercy on us for our flesh is weak. Guide us by your Spirit that we many live as your disciples; faithfully loving you and our neighbor as our self. Let your love and forgiveness shine through us to others that they may see our good works and glorify Our Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ our Savior.

ABSOLUTION

Genesis 12:1–3 *The Call of Abram*

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Romans 3:19–28 *The Righteousness of God Through Faith*

*Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. **For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.** But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. **For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,** whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be*

*received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of our boasting? **It is excluded.** By what kind of law? By a law of works? **No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.***

Matthew 10:37–39 *Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus*

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

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 death. 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.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling LSB 700

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav’n to earth come:
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev’ry trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest:
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be:
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory to glory,
'Til in heav'n we take our place,
'Til we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Sermon: Beginnings #7 - Covenant

Prayers

COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT

Preserve Your Word:

1. Preserve Your Word. O Savior,
To us this latter day.
And let Your Kingdom flourish;
Enlarge Your Church, we pray.

O keep our faith from failing;
Keep hope's bright star aglow,
Let nothing from truth turn us
While living here below.

2. Preserve, O Lord, Your honor,
The bold blasphemer smite;
Convince, concert, enlighten
The souls in error's night
Reveal Your will, dear Savior,
To all who dwell below,
Great light of all the living,
That all Your name may know.

3. Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion,
Bought dearly with Your blood.
Protect what You have chosen
Against the hellish flood.
Be always our defender
When dangers gather round;
When all the earth is crumbling,
Safe may Your Church be found.

4. Preserve Your Word and preaching,
The truth that makes us whole.
The mirror of Your glory,
The pow'r that saves the soul,
Oh, may this living water,
This dew of heav'nly grace.
Sustain us while here living
Until we see Your face.