

October 29, 2017



Reformation Sunday

Ascension Lutheran Church

A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

(clclutheran.org)

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Ascension Lutheran is a family of Christians
intent on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and His victory over death

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

PRESERVICE MEDITATION: Psalm 27 (page 129 in The Lutheran Hymnal)

HYMN 798 (Worship Supplement) “God, We Praise You”

(the following is all spoken):

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: AND MY MOUTH SHALL DECLARE YOUR PRAISE.

P: Hasten to deliver me, O God.

C: HASTEN TO HELP ME, O LORD.

**ALL: GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.
AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW, AND SHALL BE FOREVER. AMEN.**

– Confession of Sins and Absolution for Sins –

P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father to give Him thanks for the great blessings that we have received at His hand, to praise Him, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

ALL: ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, WE HAVE STRAYED FROM YOUR WAYS LIKE LOST SHEEP. WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE DEVICES AND DESIRES OF OUR HEARTS. WE HAVE OFFENDED AGAINST YOUR HOLY LAW. WE HAVE DONE THOSE THINGS WHICH WE SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE, AND WE HAVE NOT DONE THOSE THINGS WE SHOULD HAVE DONE. HAVE MERCY ON US, O LORD! SPARE AND RESTORE US, ACCORDING TO THE PROMISES YOU HAVE DECLARED TO US IN JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD. FOR HIS SAKE GRANT THAT WE MAY LIVE A GODLY, RIGHTEOUS, AND SOBER LIFE, TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness for all of our sins, grace for repentance and newness of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Philippians 6:10-18a

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of

the Spirit, which is the Word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

Responsive Reading from Psalm 34

M: I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C: MY SOUL SHALL MAKE ITS BOAST IN THE LORD; THE HUMBLE SHALL HEAR OF IT AND BE GLAD.

M: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together.

C: I SOUGHT THE LORD, AND HE HEARD ME, AND DELIVERED ME FROM ALL MY FEARS.

M: They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed.

C: THIS POOR MAN CRIED OUT, AND THE LORD HEARD HIM, AND SAVED HIM OUT OF ALL HIS TROUBLES.

M: The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

C: OH, TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD; BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TRUSTS IN HIM!

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 8:23-27 *rise*

²³ Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. ²⁵ Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" ²⁶ But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷ So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Confession of Faith – *from the Formula of Concord, on Justification by Faith*

ALL: We unanimously believe, teach, and confess the following about the righteousness of faith before God. A poor sinful person is justified before God, that is, absolved and declared free and exempt from all his sins and from the sentence of well-deserved condemnation, and is adopted into sonship and inheritance of eternal life, without any merit or worth of his own. This happens without any preceding, present, or subsequent works, out of pure grace, because of the sole merit, complete obedience, bitter suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Christ alone. His obedience is credited to us for righteousness.

These treasures are brought to us by the Holy Spirit in the promise of the Holy Gospel. Faith alone is the only means through which we lay hold on, accept, apply, and take them for ourselves. This faith is God's gift, by which we truly learn to know Christ, our Redeemer, in the Word of the Gospel and trust in Him. We trust that for the sake of His obedience alone we have the forgiveness of sins by grace, are regarded as godly and righteous by God the Father, and are eternally saved.

HYMN 266 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*O God, Our Lord, Thy Holy Word*"

SERMON: Psalm 46

GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH¹

God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ³ *though* its waters roar *and* be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with its swelling. ⁴ *There is* a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy *place* of the tabernacle of the Most High. ⁵ God *is* in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. ⁶ The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. ⁷ The LORD of hosts *is* with us; the God of Jacob *is* our refuge. ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. ¹⁰ Be still, 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 refuge.

OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 262 (The Lutheran Hymnal) "*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, and THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (page 21, Worship Supplement)

Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 800 (Worship Supplement) "*Go, My Children, With My Blessing*"

WELCOME, VISITORS! We're very happy that you are here today! You are always welcome.

Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex.

TODAY our USHER is Greg Suwanski. NO BIBLE STUDY after church this morning, to give those attending today's joint Reformation service at Faith Lutheran Church in Markesan, WI, time to get there before it starts at 3:30 PM.

FRIDAY: No North Aurora Care Center Bible study this week.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP SERVICE: 10 AM; SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Tyler Louderman. There will be no Bible Study next Sunday.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12: After Bible Study, removing dead tree by the mower shed.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Last Sunday's offering was \$1,304.00 (needed each week: \$1,200.00); attendance was 17.

CLC NEWS: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, has called Pastor Andrew Schaller of Calvary Lutheran Church, Marquette, MI, as co-pastor.