



*Twenty-third Sunday
after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday*

October 28, 2017

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all the generations. *(Psalm 90:1)*

You, O Lord, have been a dwelling place for us and our children.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. *(Psalm 90:2)*

You, O Lord, have been with us for these 90 years!

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. *(Psalm 46:1)*

You, O Lord, have been our refuge and our strength!

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *(Psalm 46:7, 11)*

You, O Lord, are the eternal One and we have trusted you.

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. *(Lamentations 3:22, 23)*

You, O Lord, have been our faithful One!

Jesus said, "I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." *(Matthew 16:18)*

You, O Lord, have built your church in this place and we have been blessed.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *What is This Place* (ELW 524)

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of our present and our future, as we gather here today we look for hope. The future is uncertain; we wonder what it will bring. Fill us with a vision for what we could be. Give us hope for our congregation and our community. Help us find the choices that lead to life in abundance.

God of hope, in a time of uncertainty we so often fall into fear and worry. Show us the opportunities in our chaotic world; remind us to consider seriously where our priorities and loyalties lie; push us to see how our choices matter, and then fill us with hope in a new heaven and a new earth. God of our future, may we walk boldly into what may come, as people, not only of faith but of hope. May we share your hope and promise with the world in which we live.

Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 84

A reading from Psalm.

¹How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

²My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

⁴Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.

Selah

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸O Lord GOD of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!

Selah

⁹Behold our shield, O God;

look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹For the Lord GOD is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the LORD withhold
from those who walk uprightly.

¹²O LORD of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

READING: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

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

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

³³They 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?’”

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504)

CREED

**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

Longing for God's will to be fulfilled among us, we pray persistently for the church, the world, and all people in need.

Holy God, work in your church across denominational and cultural divisions to form us into a more complete expression of your holy community. Show the world your likeness through us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

By rain, rivers, and oceans, remind us how your word flows through this world, surrounding us with grace. Keep us always in the covenant that is sealed in water and Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Free us from the lies we tell ourselves or others in order to justify our words and actions. Lead us to speak honestly and to listen humbly, and reveal your truth among us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Be a stronghold for people who are in danger this day. In your righteous presence cause the evil that surrounds them to flee, and clothe them with your mercy. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Continue making all things new. Seal your covenant with humankind, and write your law on our hearts. Make repentance a regular habit for us so that forgiveness abounds. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks to you for the members and the ministry of this congregation: for those who had the vision to begin this congregation, those who sustain its present ministry, and those who will carry its mission forward into the future. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guide all the saints in proclaiming the good news of salvation in Christ. Bring your people eternally into Christ's presence on the last day. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Share God's peace with those around you in these or similar words: "Peace be with you."

CONGREGATIONAL / COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/ANTHEM

For baptisms we've celebrated, professions of faith we have heard, and answers to prayer that we have experienced,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For a congregation that has always desired to worship you faithfully and vibrantly, hearing your Word, singing your praise, and seeking your strength,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For a commitment to remain true to your Word in a world of confusing and conflicting voices,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For generosity that has enabled us to reach far beyond this community with the word and witness of the Gospel,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For hundreds of children and youth who have been here as they were trained in the ways of the Lord and now serve God around the world,

We give you thanks, O Lord.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in our communion meal. We will commune by intinction. After receiving the bread, you may dip it into the cup of wine/grape juice. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

During the distribution:

The body of Christ, given for you. **Response: Amen**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Response: Amen**

COMMUNION SONG



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Send us out, renewed by this sacramental meal, to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ, to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING LITANY

And now, O Lord, we pray for the children and youth that are part of Acacia Park Lutheran Church, that they may be grounded in your truth and learn to love you with a whole heart,

O Lord, hear our prayer.

And we pray for the children yet to be born who will sit in these pews in the years to come that they may carry your kingdom to future generations,

O Lord, hear our prayer.

And we pray for the parents and grandparents here that they may faithfully tell each new generation of your mercies and your salvation,

O Lord, hear our prayer.

And we pray for leaders, pastors, and staff members that their leadership may always be true to your Word and faithful to your calling,

O Lord, hear our prayer.

And we desire, Lord, that you will use us to reach to many within our community and throughout our world that in their need they may know your love and in their sin may find your grace,

O Lord, hear our prayer.

To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen! (Romans 16:27)

BLESSING

Go forth in peace and with the courage of faith. Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Amen.

Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *God is Here!* (ELW 526)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER HOLIDAY EVENTS!

- November 4 & 11 Thanksgiving Food Collection—during worship**
We will again be collecting food for the Thanksgiving holiday for St. Cyprian's Food Pantry. A list of needed food items will be available shortly.
- November 11 Thanks-4-Giving Potluck Lunch—10:45 am**
Please join us for lunch, and consider bringing a dish to share.
- November 17 Chili Cook Off—time TBD**
Come and enjoy an evening of sampling some of the best chili recipes from our community and great local entertainment.
- December 1 Grief & the Holidays Workshop—11:00 am**
Church members and friends are invited to this presentation by Pr. Meagan which explores strategies for coping with memories, feelings and activities associated with the holiday season in the wake of the death of a loved one.
- December 2, 9 & 16 Poinsettia Sale—before and after worship**
Poinsettias will again be available for the holidays. You will be able to take your flowers home after service on December 24th.
- December 4 Holiday Book Club—7:00 pm**
Our holiday selection this year is *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas. Copies will be available for church members to borrow from the office during the first week of November.
- December 15 Cookie and Craft Sale—9:00 am to 12 noon.**
We will once again hold our annual Cookie and Craft Sale just in time for the holidays. We'll need volunteers to bake for this fun and delicious fundraiser. We will also provide tables for craft vendors for a small donation.
- December 24 Christmas Eve Worship—4:00 pm**

All events will take place at the church.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Marcia Walther
Reader:	Sue Miskawitz
Bread/Wine Presenter:	June Farrow
Acolyte:	Thomas Tompkins
Ushers:	June Farrow and Kären Tompkins
Counters:	Patti Mann and James Mann
Altar:	Mike and Sue Miskawitz
Greeter(s):	Diane Huske

ACACIA PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Pastor: Rev. Meagan Sherman-Sporrong
Organist/Choir Director: Katherine Kishka
Administrative Assistant: Dawn Olson Parent

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“A Litany of Thanks.” *Calvin Institute of Christian Worship for the Study and Renewal of Worship*. <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/the-community-with-a-story-of-faithfulness--celebrating-a-congregational-anniversary--psalm-78/>. Accessed 9 October 2018.

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