

THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION

500TH ANNIVERSARY

October 29, 2017

HOLY COMMUNION

TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS: We receive the Lord's Supper, believing the Word of Jesus, that He gives into our mouths His true body and blood, miraculously united to the bread and wine, to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His Word, repent on all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love one another, even as He forgives and loves us.

God's Word teaches us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm, and that this Holy Communion is a confession of the faith that is confessed in this church. Therefore any who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or are members of a congregation not in the fellowship of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to commune, are asked to kindly speak with the pastor ahead of time. (*Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; 11:17-34*)

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: THE GERMAN MASS OF 1525

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC: Organ and Bells of St. John's

PROCESSIONAL (*Please rise and face the processional cross.*)

HYMN 262 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

(The choir sings the first stanza in German; then the congregation sings all four stanzas from the hymnal.)

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling.

There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

God is in her midst; she shall not be moved. God shall help when morning dawns.

The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations He has made in the earth.

He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two. He burns the chariot in the fire.

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

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

KYRIE (*chanted by the congregation*)

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS HYMN: 238 "All Glory Be to God Alone"

COLLECT OF THE DAY

EPISTLE: Romans 3:19-28

HYMN OF THE DAY: 387 "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"
v. 1-6

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

CREED HYMN: 251 "We All Believe in One True God" (*second tune*)

SERMON: God's Way of Dealing with Sin: Christ Jesus!
Romans 3:23-25

- I. False ways of dealing with sin
- II. God's way is justification in Christ Jesus.

OFFERING

PRAYER

ADMONITION TO COMMUNICANTS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SANCTUS HYMN: 249 "Isaiah, Mighty Seer, in Days of Old"

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

147 "O Christ, Thou Lamb of God"

311 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

313 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

387 "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" v. 7-10

COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

Amen.

HYMN 261 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word"

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Today's service for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is based on Martin Luther's German Mass, which was first used on October 29, 1525 in Wittenberg. Luther prepared this service to be done entirely in the language of the people (German), so that everyone could understand it. It follows the basic pattern of the traditional Latin Mass, but uses hymn paraphrases for some of the ordinary parts of the liturgy. The service includes no Confession and Absolution, since this was done individually at that time; corporate Confession and Absolution within the divine service were not yet in practice. Originally numerous parts of the liturgy were chanted, including the Psalm, Collects, Lord's Prayer, Words of Institution, and even the Scripture readings. Today these will be spoken; Pastor will chant only the Words of Institution, and the congregation will chant the Kyrie. At the time of the Reformation it was also customary to include only Epistle and Gospel readings.

Cover art: Martin Luther and Elector Frederick kneel before Christ the Crucified.