St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
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THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION

October 29, 2023

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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)*

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THE ORDER OF SERVICE:
based on
THE GERMAN MASS OF 1525

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

Stand
HYMN 262 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

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

PSALM: Psalm 12 *(NASB)*

1. Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases to be, for the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.

2. **They speak falsehood to one another; with flattering lips and with a double heart they speak.**

3. May the Lord cut off all flattering lips, the tongue that speaks great things;

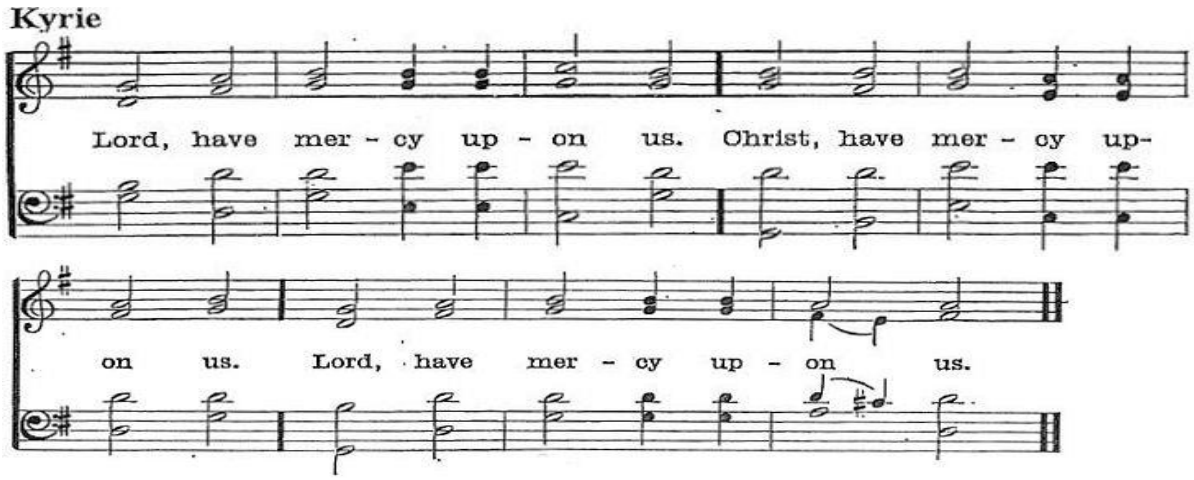
4. **Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"**

5. "Because of the devastation of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy, now I will arise," says the Lord; "I will set him in the safety for which he longs."

6. **The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.**

7. Thou, O Lord wilt keep them; Thou wilt preserve him from this generation forever.

8. **The wicked strut about on every side, when vileness is exalted among the sons of men.**



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

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Sit

EPISTLE: Romans 3:19-28

[19]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. [20]For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

[21]But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—[22]the righteousness of

God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:
[23]for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24]and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25]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. [27]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. [28]For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 290 "We Have a Sure Prophetic Word"

Stand
GOSPEL: John 8:31-36
[31]So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32]and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." [33]They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"
[34]Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. [35]The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. [36]So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

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

Sit
SERMON: "Kept by the Lord's Pure Word" Psalm 12:6-7
I. There is danger in the empty and flattering speech of this wicked generation.
II. The Lord keeps us through His pure word.

OFFERING
CHOIR: "O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold"
(You may follow the text at Hymn 260 v. 1, 4, 5, 6.)

Stand
PRAYER

ADMONITION TO COMMUNICANTS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Sit
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS
294 “O Word of God Incarnate”
313 “O Lord, We Praise Thee”
292 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

Stand
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.

Sit
HYMN 261 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word”

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ABOUT THE SERVICE

Today's service for the Festival 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.