

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Believing communicants receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# Reformation Day (Observed)

October 30, 2022

## INTROIT

*Psalm 34:1-2, 11, 22; Antiphon: Psalm 119:46*

*I will also speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]  
and shall not be put to shame.*

*I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

*My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.*

*Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*

*The Lord redeems the life of his servants;  
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*I will also speak of your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]  
and shall not be put to shame.*

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** *Almighty and Gracious Lord,  
pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people.  
Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth,  
protect and deliver us in times of temptation,  
defend us against all enemies,  
and grant to Your Church Your saving peace;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.*

**C** *♪[Amen]♪*

## GRADUAL

*Psalm 48:1a, 12-14a*

*Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised  
in the city of our God!*

*Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers,  
consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels,  
that you may tell the next generation  
that this is God, our God forever and ever.*

## RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

*After each petition:*

**P** *Lord, in Your mercy,*  
**C** *hear our prayer.*

## Revelation 14:6-7 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. <sup>7</sup> And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

## Romans 3:19-28 (ESV)

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

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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.

<sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one

is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

## John 8:31-36 (ESV)

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup> 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?’”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.



## Observing the Reformation

The actual date of Oct 31 as the Memorial Day of the Reformation goes back to a decree by the Prince Elector of Saxony, Johann Georg II, in 1667. Slowly, other Protestant areas followed suit. Previously and for some time after, the Reformation as a historical event was commemorated on different days, such as June 25 (the day of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession) or on the birthday of Martin Luther (Nov 10) or on the day of Luther's death (Feb 18).

Used as they are every year, rather than every three years, the Propers for Reformation Day are likely quite familiar to many worshippers. This is particularly true of the hymnody for the day. Obviously, the hymn "A Mighty Fortress" (*LSB* 656/657) is a must. The other designated *Hymn of the Day* is "Salvation unto Us Has Come" (*LSB* 555) by Paul Speratus, a Wittenberg contemporary of Luther. And for a thorough proclamation of Reformation insights, take a look at "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" (*LSB* 556). Oh, that our sermons would live up to that kind of proclamation!

Oct 31 is a legal public holiday in the five states of eastern Germany, and—surprisingly—in Slovenia and Chile. Celebrating Reformation Day in the Anglo-Saxon lands, including the U.S. and Canada, is not easy because of the preponderance of various Halloween rites and customs, some obviously completely at variance with the Christian faith. Therefore, it is certainly appropriate for pastors and parishes to move the celebration of Reformation Day to the Sunday previous (as we do) or to the following one.

### REFORMATION DAY (Observed)

Revelation 14:6–7

Romans 3:19–28

John 8:31–36 or Matthew 11:12–19

### *The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace*

"Wisdom is justified by her deeds" (Matt. 11:19), and the true Wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, has justified us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, that we might eat and drink with Him in His Kingdom and "remain in the house forever" (John 8:35). He is "a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Matt. 11:18–19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel "to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people" (Rev. 14:6), "the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law" (Rom. 3:21), "that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26). And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, "whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith" (Rom. 3:25), "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31–32).

### *Next Week's Readings from God's Word:*

November 6: All Saints' Day (Observed):

Revelation 7: 2-17, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12