



## *St John's*

Evangelical Lutheran Church & School  
520 W Chestnut St, Lake City, MN 55041  
651-345-3523 (church) 651-345-4092 (school)  
www.StJohnsLakeCity.com  
office@StJohnsLakeCity.com

## *Festival of the Reformation*

Truth and Lies

03 November 2019 9:00 A.M.

**Welcome!** We are delighted you chose to spend this time here today. We are a Christ-centered fellowship of believers from many backgrounds and from all ages. We want to make a difference in our world by sharing the message of God's love with as many people as possible.

We *love* to have **Children** with us in the pews for worship. Our children's activity bags in the entryway have activities that can help them. We love babies in worship too because our Savior said, "Let the little children come to me." When babies need to cry loudly, the **Parent's Room** (just outside our worship area) is a good place for them to let it all out. Then come back so we can all worship together.

If your **hearing aids** have T-Coils, set them to "on" and the service will be piped wirelessly to your ears.

We would love to stay in contact with you. If you are willing, fill out a pew card with your information. God bless your week. Come hear God's Word with us again!

### **Pre-Worship Prayer:**

*Faithful God, be present as we join our hearts to hear Your Word and join our voices to sing Your praise. Keep us safe from Satan's cunning lies. In Your Word You have recorded all the truth we need in order to know You as the Savior-God and to overcome every error Satan sets to*

*trap us. Make us vigorous and diligent in studying Your Word so we hold on to the truth. Give us concern for all who don't claim Christ as Savior so we share the truth. Amen.*

## Why We're Here

*Our Focus*

It's all about *truth* and **lies**. Satan wants to keep us from believing *Jesus is our Savior*. With his tools (all forms of **deception**) Satan tries to **obscure** and **defame** the *truth* so that he can devour us. The Almighty Lord, on the other hand, wants us to put our full faith in Him because *He has rescued us from sin*. The *truth* is God's tool. Our faithful Lord keeps on revealing the *truth* through *His Word* so He can save everyone. We're here today to praise Him for thwarting Satan's efforts by making the *truth* clear and plain in Luther's day. And we ask Him to continue doing so until the Return of Jesus Christ.

# The Lord Serves His People

## Invocation and Call to Worship

*[remain seated]*

*Pastor: The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth [Psalm 145:18]. We worship the God of truth—Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit—our Mighty Fortress, whose Word is our great heritage.*

**Congregation:** May it always be so. Amen.

*P: Today with Christians around the world, O Lord, we celebrate the Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. When Satan had spread throughout the church on earth the lie that people can save themselves by what they do, You raised up Your servant, Martin Luther, and led him into Your Word. We praise You that through Your Word he learned the truth that we sinners are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, which Scripture alone reveals. Furthermore we praise You for spreading this truth through the work of Luther and countless others, with the result that we have come to believe this truth, thanks to the Holy Spirit.*

C: O Lord, since Your Word is truth [John 17:17], renew us and sanctify us today through Your Word, so that we learn to abhor and turn away from every kind of lie, deception and falsehood. Hear us for the sake of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

## Hymn

#200

## Worship Dialog

including Confession & Absolution

*P: Let us briefly review what the God of truth says about both the truth and lies.*

C: Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long. [Ps 25:2]

*P: Lord, we know You as the God who wants everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. [1 Timothy 2:4]*

C: He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change His mind. [1 Samuel 15:29]

*P: Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. [Ps 34:12-13]*

C: You destroy those who tell lies; bloodthirsty and deceitful men the LORD abhors. [Psalm 5:6]

*P: Our offenses are many in Your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: rebellion against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. [Isaiah 59:12-13]*

C: Although our sins testify against us, O LORD, do something for the sake of Your name. For our backsliding is great; we have sinned against You. [Jer 14:7]

*P: Our God did do something for us: He sent His Son about whom the Scripture says, "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth." [1 Peter 2:22] As one who always told the truth, Jesus qualified as the perfect Substitute for us before the throne of God.*

- C: This is the name by which He will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. [Jeremiah 23:6]
- P: *Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* [John 14:6]
- C: The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [John 1:14]
- P: *Since Jesus had no sin, the Father counted His death as our death. Full payment has been made for our sin.* [see 2 Corinthians 5:21]
- C: God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting anyone's sins against them. [2 Corinthians 5:19]  
Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through his name. [Acts 10:43]
- P: *Send forth Your light and Your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to Your holy mountain, to the place where You dwell.* [Psalm 43:3]
- C: Teach me Your way, O LORD, and I will walk in Your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name. [Psalm 86:11]
- P: *Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.* [Colossians 3:9-10]
- C: Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. [Ephesians 4:15]

## Song of Praise

CW293

God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever.  
To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure  
throughout all generations.

## Prayer of the Day

*P: O God, our Refuge and Strength, bless Your Church with the Holy Spirit so that we may have renewed zeal to carry out Your mission. Keep us trusting in Your Word as truth that we may always rely on Your grace. May the eternal message of Your Son, uncorrupted by the lying spirit of our times, be received with joy as the good news which saves.*

**C:** We ask it through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 45:16-25

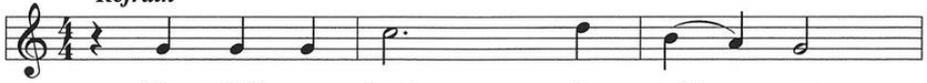
<sup>16</sup>All the makers of idols will be put to shame and disgraced; they will go off into disgrace together. <sup>17</sup>But Israel will be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation; you will never be put to shame or disgraced, to ages everlasting. <sup>18</sup>For this is what the LORD says: ... “I am the LORD, and there is no other. <sup>19</sup>I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob’s descendants, ‘Seek me in vain.’ I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right. <sup>20</sup>Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations. Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save. <sup>21</sup>Declare what is to be, present it—let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. <sup>22</sup>Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. <sup>23</sup>By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. <sup>24</sup>They will say of me, ‘In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.’” All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame. <sup>25</sup>But in the LORD all the descendants of Israel will be found righteous and will exult.

*P: You have heard the Word of the Lord.*

**C:** Thanks be to God.

# Psalm 46

## Refrain



The might - y Lord is with us;



the God of Ja - cob is our for - tress.

## Psalm Tone



God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.

## Refrain

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

God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.

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

**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.**

## Refrain

## Epistle Lesson

2 John 1-4,7-11

1The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth — and not I only, but also all who know the truth — 2because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: 3Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love. 4It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. ... 7Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. 9Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. 11Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

*P: The person who belongs to God listens to God’s Word.*

**C:** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it.

(John 8:47 and Luke 11:28)

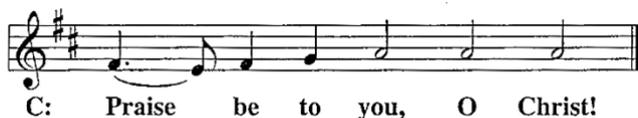
## Gospel

John 8:31-51 (selected)

31Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” 34Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37I know you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. 38I am

telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you do what you have heard from your father.” 39“Abraham is our father,” they answered. “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do the things Abraham did. 40As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. 41You are doing the things your own father does. ... 42If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. 43Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. 44You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! 46Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me? 47He who belongs to God hears what God says... 51I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”

*P: You have heard the Gospel of the Lord.*



## Hymn of the Day

#204

### Sermon

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31“‘The time is coming,’” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a

husband to them, “ declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup>“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

### *God’s New Covenant Makes Us Free*

#### **♪♪ Creed**

tune: CW169

I believe in God the Father, Maker of the heav’n and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, our Savior, God’s own Son, of human birth.  
Virgin-born, the Lord incarnate, Whom the Spirit did conceive,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate: He’s the God whom I believe.

Crucified, was dead, and buried; down to hell in victory;  
from the dead He rose the third day; up to heav’n triumphantly.  
There at God’s right hand He’s ruling; by His will the world is led.  
He will come to judge the nations, both the living and the dead.

I believe in God the Spirit; in His church, His chosen band.  
They are joined in sweet communion; Holy in His sight they stand.  
I believe in sins forgiven; I believe I’ll rise again;  
I believe in life eternal. Amen! Amen! Amen!

#### **We Gather a Thank Offering**

for spreading the truth

### **Acknowledgments**

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

“*Psalm 46*” music by Kermit Moldenhauer, © 2006 Northwestern Publishing House, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-709100.

## Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

*P: Triune God, Revealer of the truth, which we could not know on our own,*

**C:** we are grateful that You have preserved for us the truth that salvation is through faith in Christ alone.

*P: We are especially thankful on this Reformation Festival for the gift of Martin Luther to Your Church.*

**C:** We praise Your glorious name because You used him to uncover again the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*P: Give us the zeal of the Reformation that we might be appropriately concerned about the continual attacks on Your holy Word, attacks by which Satan wants to obscure Your truth.*

**C:** Lead us, O God, through Your Word to a stronger faith in our Savior, that we may never be afraid to stand up for Your truth or tell it to others.

*P: You used Martin Luther so that many would come to know Your good news. Help us appreciate his efforts to hand down to us a saving knowledge of the truth.*

**C:** And lest we forget that many people were involved in the Reformation, help us realize that the work of Your Kingdom is work for each one of us to carry on.

*P: Therefore we ask You to give us the ability and the desire to share the good news of forgiveness through Christ with people we know or who live or work near us.*

**C:** Open our lips so that we might reveal to all, the news that they have been redeemed by the blood of Christ.

*P: All these petitions we bring before You in the name of Jesus, who also taught us to pray:*

**C:** Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## Hymn

#279

## Blessing

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you ✠ peace.*

**C (speaks): Amen.**

## Final Hymn

#514

## Memory Verse for the Month 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



“Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology. The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. ‘For one who believes from the heart will be justified’ [Rom. 10:10]. Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. ‘The just shall live by faith’ [Rom. 1:17] but by faith in the crucified. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives [John 14:27]. That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels [cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12]. Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my *compendium theologiae* [summary of theology]. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen.” Martin Luther, Letter to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530