

Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2020

THE SERVICE AT 11:00 a.m.

We are honored that you are joining our worship today. We encourage you to prepare for worship: gather the family, light candles, lay out bread and wine or grape juice. It doesn't need to be fancy, but do take the time to do what is necessary to make attending virtual worship a true spiritual practice for you. You are welcome at this meal.

– GATHERING –

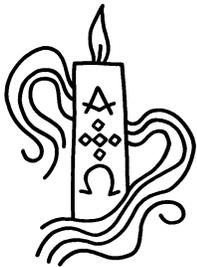
Please keep silence as the prelude begins.

PRELUDE

Built on a Rock

Wilbur Held

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Being confirmed in the faith today are:

Noah Smith, son of Tim Smith and Mary Thomason-Smith
Sophia Watters, daughter of Drew and Melissa Watters

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is

fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our

chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with

souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
'many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."

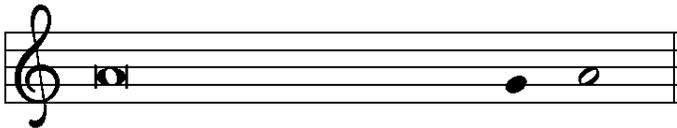
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*GREETING

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

C: **And also with you.**

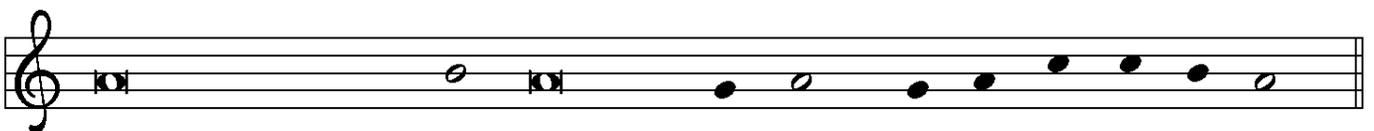
*KYRIE



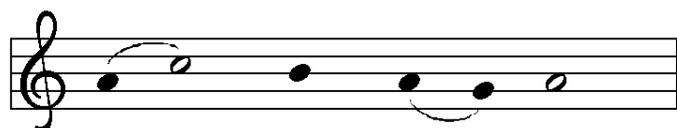
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



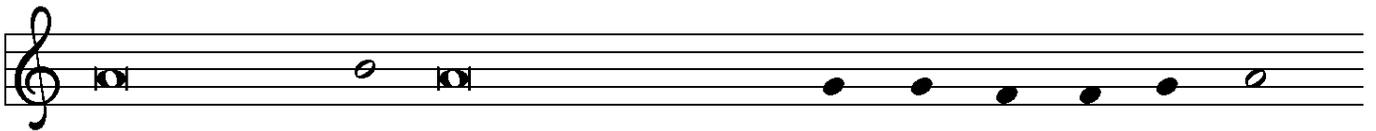
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



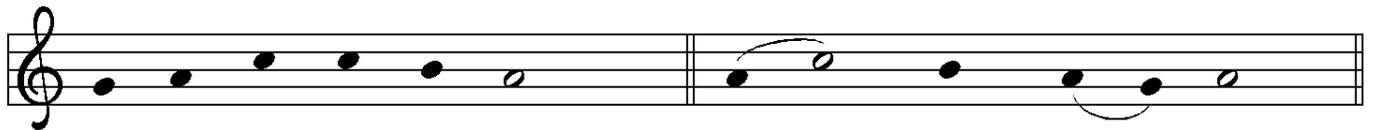
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



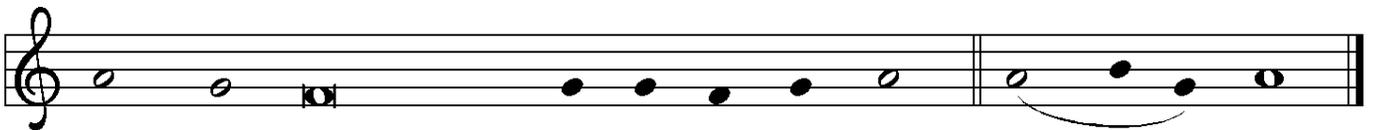
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

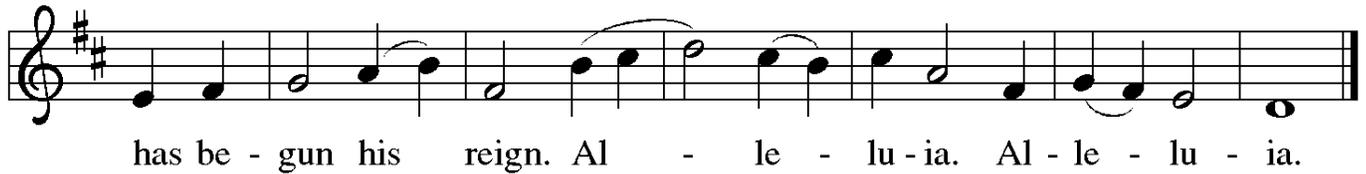
*HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



– WORD –

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was married to them, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: Word of God, word of life.

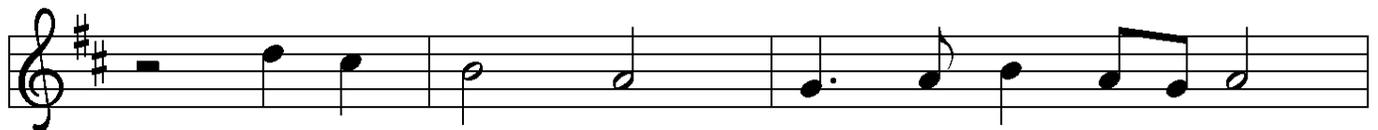
C: Thanks be to God.

is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by God's 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. This was to show God's righteousness, because in divine forbearance God had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that God is righteous and that God 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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36, NRSV, emended

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They 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?'"

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

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

TESTIMONY BY CONFIRMANDS

Noah Smith "Strength through Faith"

Sophia Watters "God's Never Ending Presence"

*HYMN OF THE DAY

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW #504



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Presentation

- P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.
- A: I present Noah Robert Thomason Smith and Sophia Jolie Watters, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.
- P: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for Noah and Sophia, our siblings in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.
- C: Amen.**

Profession of Faith

- P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
- Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- R: *I renounce them.*
- P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- R: *I renounce them.*
- P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- R: *I renounce them.*
- P: Do you believe in God the Father?
- R: *I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*
- P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- R: *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.*

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

R: *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.*

Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

R, in turn: *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

P (to the congregation across both time and space): People of God, do you promise to support these siblings in Christ and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in *name* the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

In your love, you speak to your church. Give courage and the bond of love to all who gather in your name, that this love turn toward our neighbors.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: In your love, you create our earth filled with living things of every kind. Sustain the intricate connections among plants, insects, animals, and organisms we don't even know or recognize. Bless the work of scientists who help us extend neighbor love to the natural world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: In your love, you guide with justice. Inspire leaders for truthful conversations and wise policies, that decisions are made for the good of all. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: In your love, tenderly care for your children and nurse them to health. Bring relief to all those who need healing, hope, or restoration this day especially Jim, Bruce, Carole, Tim, Roger, Paula, Erica, Bev, Liz, Audrey, JoAnne, Deborah, and Casey-Marie. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: In your love, you accompany us in life's transitions. We pray for new parents, those grieving a loss, those who are retiring, and those embarking on new ventures. We thank you and pray your blessings on Noah and Sophia, confirmed today. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: In your love we remember those who are dear to us and now rest in you. We give thanks for Martin Luther and all who seek to reform and renew your church. Give us courage to live out your gospel, revealing your love until our days on earth have ended. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

[Click here](#) to visit the St. Thomas website and click the green Give button to provide your offering digitally. Offerings may also be mailed to our address found on the last page of this bulletin.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

– LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST –

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

C: 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

P: Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

***EUCHARISTIC BLESSING C: Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P: Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen.

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Helmut Walcha

+++

*We depart in peace to continue our worship in lives of witness
to Christ's love in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

MINISTERS SERVING TODAY: Tim Smith and Mary Thomason-Smith, Drew and Melissa Watters, Amy Bartleson Balcam.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of the confirmands.

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives, shares and
celebrates God's grace with all people!**

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3800 East Third Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Phone: (812) 332-5252
Office Hours 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
www.stlconline.org

Rev. Adrienne Meier, Pastor
pastoradrienne@gmail.com

Susan Krieg, Administrator
susank@stlconline.org

Minnie Miller, Records Manager
officestaff@stlconline.org

Mike Powell, Director of Music and Organist

Katie Gardiner, Adult Choir Director

Melissa de Graaf, Children's Choir Director

in covenant with

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY

314 Rose Avenue Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian, Campus Pastor

www.lcmiu.org

Email: lutheran@indiana.edu

Phone: (812) 333-2474

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