



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

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## Welcome to Worship!

Today, we celebrate a distinctly Lutheran church holiday: the Festival of the Reformation. We value freedom and strive to protect it. But we often forget what it means to be truly free. True freedom means holding to Jesus' teachings and knowing the truth—the truth that will set us free. Martin Luther remembered this freedom through one of his Reformation phrases: sola Scriptura, Scripture alone. Like Luther, we confess only what Scripture confesses and bind ourselves to its teaching. Does restricting ourselves in this manner curtail freedom? No, just the opposite—God's divinely inspired truth brings freedom. It frees us from slavery to sinful delusions, the burden of guilt, and any earthly powers. This week we see that when we willingly bind ourselves to truth, Jesus keeps his promise: the truth sets us free.

## Worship Notes

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.

During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or located online at [www.sjtosa.org/Connect](http://www.sjtosa.org/Connect)). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

## Bible Study

Our Bible study on Micah, led by retired Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary professor Forrest Bivens, continues this morning. As a prophet, Micah was called to be God's messenger and proclaim both judgment and salvation. Through three addresses (or oracles), Micah clearly condemns Israel's sin but also gives hope that the Lord will save.

Our study this morning will focus mainly on the second oracle in Micah's book: an oracle directed against the leaders of Israel and Judah. Micah begins by condemning corrupt political leaders, false prophets, and mercenary priests. He then looks ahead to the coming messianic age and the time when all will be put right again.

# Reformation

## October 29 & 30, 2022

The Truth Will Set You Free

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### Prelude

#### Opening Hymn

*Please stand to sing the final stanza*

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

*Christian Worship 862 (Saturday)*

*Adult Choir & Congregation*

*arranged by John A. Behnke (Sunday)*

Oh, that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

Then I shall not be put to shame.

Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word.

**Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; curb those who by deceit or sword  
would seek to overthrow your Son and to destroy what he has done.**

And Jesus said, "If you abide in my Word,  
you are truly my disciples."

Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word.

**Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are Lord of lords alone;  
defend your Christendom that we may sing your praise eternally.**

There is one body, there is one Spirit, there is one hope for which we live  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word.

**O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth;  
support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.**

Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## REFORMATION DIALOGUE

*from Martin Luther's Commentary on Galatians*

For the one doctrine which I have supremely at heart is that of faith in Christ, from whom, through whom, and unto whom all my theological thinking flows back and forth day and night.

**I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

*Galatians 2:20*

Justification is the doctrine that we are redeemed from sin, death and the devil, and made partakers of eternal life, not by ourselves but by the help of another, the only-begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ.

**Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.**

*Galatians 3:22*

For in the righteousness of faith we work nothing, we render nothing unto God, but only we receive and suffer another to work in us, that is to say, God.

**We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.**

*Galatians 2:16a*

I rest only upon the righteousness of Christ and of the Holy Ghost, which we have not, but receive; God the Father freely giving it unto us through Jesus Christ.

**For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith."**

*Galatians 3:10, 11*

For I am baptized, and by the Gospel am called to the partaking of righteousness and of everlasting life, to the kingdom of Christ, wherein my conscience is at rest, where no law is, but altogether forgiveness of sins, peace, quietness, joy, health and everlasting life.

**You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**

*Galatians 3:26, 27*

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31–34

*The new covenant of grace transforms hearts and sets us free.*

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors  
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.

“This is the covenant I will make with the people 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.

No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
or say to one another, ‘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.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Refrain*



If God is for us, who can be a - gainst us?

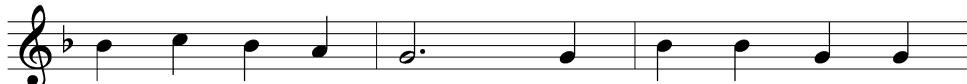


God is our sal - va - tion, al - ways by our side.

*Verses*



1 God is our ref - uge and our strength, an  
 2 A riv - er flows whose streams make glad the  
 3 Be - hold the won - drous deeds of God, who



ev - er pres - ent aid, and there - fore, though the  
 cit - y of our God, the ho - ly dwell - ing  
 caus - es wars to cease, the weap - ons of the



earth be moved, we will not be a - fraid; though  
 of the LORD, the place of God's a - bode. Since  
 strong de - stroyed, God brings a - bid - ing peace. "Be



hills in - to the seas be cast, though foam - ing wa - ters roar,  
 God is in the midst of it, our safe - ty is se - cure;  
 still and know that I am God, ex - alt - ed ev - er - more;"

the LORD of hosts is by our side, a  
the LORD of hosts is by our side, a  
the LORD of hosts is by our side, a

ref - uge strong and sure. *Refrain*  
ref - uge strong and sure. *Refrain*  
ref - uge strong and sure. *Refrain*

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## Second Reading

Galatians 5:1–6

*Paul encourages us to stand firm in the freedom that we have in Christ.*

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 8:31,32

Alleluia, alleluia.

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Alleluia.

## Gospel

John 8:31–36

*The truth of the gospel sets us free.*

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Adult Choir & Congregation

Christian Worship 863

*The congregation is invited to sing all stanzas on Saturday and sts. 1, 2 & 4 on Sunday*

## Sermon

John 8:31–36

*The Gospel of Jesus Christ = Truth and Freedom*

*Please stand*

## Confession of Faith based on Luther’s Explanation to the Apostles’ Creed

O Heavenly Father, you have created us and continually shower us with blessings.

**I believe that God made me and every creature, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.**

O Jesus, our Savior, you have redeemed us with your precious blood.

**I believe that Christ has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

O Holy Spirit, you have created faith in our hearts which clings to the Word and promises of the Bible.

**I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

This is most certainly true.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

Lord God, heavenly Father, you are our mighty fortress. In you we find our strength, our protection, and our peace. Through the shield of faith, protect us from the flaming arrows of the evil one.

**Help us to wield your Word as the sword of the Spirit that the gates of hell may not prevail against us.**

The old evil foe has sworn to harm us, to deceive us, and to lead us away from you. We cannot fight him with our own strength or conquer him with our own power. Protect your Church, purchased by the blood of your Son, from Satan's attacks.

**Continue to provide your Church with faithful pastors who proclaim faith in Jesus as the only way to salvation.**

All have sinned and fall short of your glory, O Lord. Good works could not avert our doom. But through your strong Word, you have made us your own and clothed us with your robe of righteousness.

**Cause us to daily hold firmly to your promise that we are justified by faith apart from works of the law.**

In your love for us, you sent your Son as the Light of light into this dark world. Through your Church, continue to shine the gospel into our present darkness.

**Send out your light and your truth into all the world and remove all that would obscure your light from us.**

You have charged your Church with the work of proclaiming your gospel to every people, tribe, language, and nation.

**As we proclaim your Word, do not let it return empty, but accomplish through it what you desire.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow*

All honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Offering

*Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit [www.sjtosa.org/offering](http://www.sjtosa.org/offering).*



## Hymn

Salvation unto Us Has Come  
Christian Worship 558 (sts. 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10)

*Please stand*

O Lord our God, we give you heartfelt thanks for the gift of your pure Word. Grant us the grace to hold fast this treasure given to us and the earnest desire to faithfully proclaim this true and living Gospel. Strengthen us in the one true faith until at last we are reunited with all the faithful before your throne; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

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.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Closing Hymn**

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

*Christian Worship 640*

## **Announcements**

## **Postlude**

## **Acknowledgments**

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# Serving at Worship

**Preacher**

Pastor Joel Leyrer

**Presiding Minister**

Senior Vicar Christian Willick

**Musicians**

Carmen Rupprecht, piano (Saturday)  
Lynn Kozlowski, organ (Sunday)  
John Handeland, Kathryn Hende, Mac Mundt,  
Mike Swenson & Christian Willick, French horn

**Adult Choir Director**

Adam Sipe

## Worship Notes

- The flowers are placed in loving memory of Terry Paul on his birthday, November 1, from his family.

## In Our Prayers

- St. John's teachers Christine Rindfleisch and Carrie Henning, as each deliberates the two divine calls they now hold.
- Family and friends of longtime St. John's member Lorraine Raabe, whom the Lord called to his side on Friday, October 21, at the age of 98 and whose Christian Victory service was held on Saturday, October 29.
- George Haas, who underwent a cardiac ablation procedure at Froedtert on Thursday, October 27.
- Six-year-old Sawyer Sweet, scheduled for a complex exploratory neurological procedure at Children's Hospital on Monday, October 31, which will be followed by ten days of hospitalization and observation.

## Parents' Preview for November 6

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

### Blessed Are They (refrain)

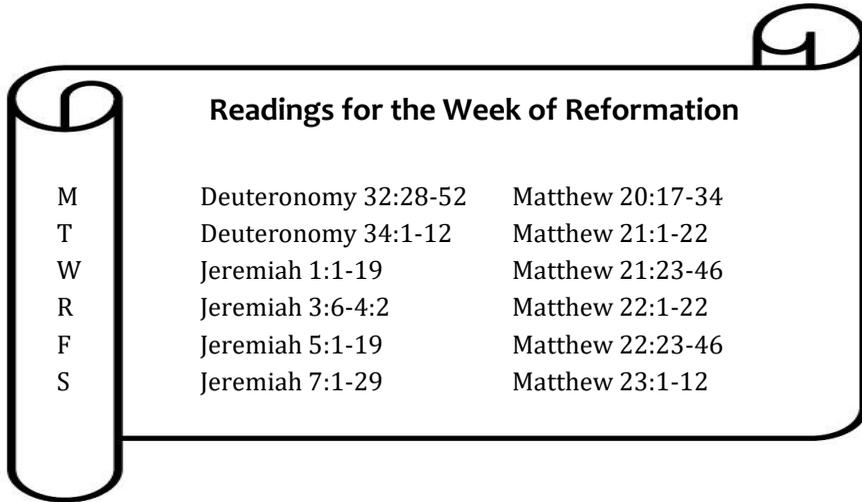
#### Christian Worship 886

*Refrain*

Bless - ed are they which are called, bless - ed are  
they which are called, bless - ed are they which are  
called to the mar - riage feast of the Lamb.

The musical notation consists of three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line. The third staff concludes the melody for the third line. The lyrics are: "Bless - ed are they which are called, bless - ed are they which are called to the mar - riage feast of the Lamb." The word "mar" is hyphenated across the end of the second staff and the beginning of the third staff.

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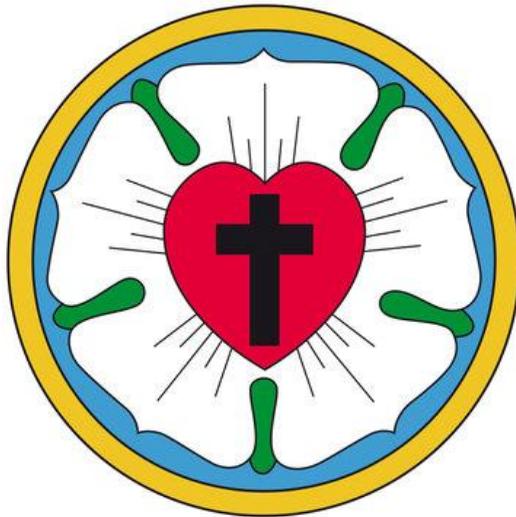
**Readings for the Week of Reformation**

M	Deuteronomy 32:28-52	Matthew 20:17-34
T	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Matthew 21:1-22
W	Jeremiah 1:1-19	Matthew 21:23-46
R	Jeremiah 3:6-4:2	Matthew 22:1-22
F	Jeremiah 5:1-19	Matthew 22:23-46
S	Jeremiah 7:1-29	Matthew 23:1-12

## The Luther Seal

This coat of arms, or seal, was designed at the request of Martin Luther to be a summary of his theology and an expression of his faith. He explained the seal in this way:

- In the center is a black cross, indicative of Christ's dreadful sacrifice on the cross for every sinner who ever lived. The cross is a reminder that faith in this crucified Christ saves us.
- The cross is in the center of a red heart, to show that faith causes love, joy, and peace to grow in the human heart.
- The red heart sits on a white rose (Luther's favorite flower) because white is the color of angels and blessed spirits.
- The white rose rests against a sky-blue background to symbolize that the joy caused by faith is a beginning of the future joy of heaven, which is grasped in hope and not yet revealed.
- The seal is enclosed in a golden ring, showing that the bliss of heaven is unending and is as precious as gold.



# The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21<sup>st</sup> century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

## Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

## Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

## Pastors

*Pastor Joel Leyrer*  
[joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org](mailto:joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org)

*Pastor Eric Schroeder*  
[eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org](mailto:eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org)

## Chinese Outreach

### Pastor

*Pastor Joshua Yu*  
[joshua.yu@sjtosa.org](mailto:joshua.yu@sjtosa.org)

## School Principal

*Mr. Dan Markgraf*  
[dan.markgraf@sjtosa.org](mailto:dan.markgraf@sjtosa.org)

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