

500 Forward: Being the Church of the Future

500 Forward!
October 1, 2017

Divine Service - Setting One

with Communion LSB p.151

As We Gather: As we gather today, think about what it means for something to stand the test of time? What does it mean for something to be truly memorable? What does it mean when buildings can last for hundreds of years, or artwork hanging in a museum is dated back to the 15th or 16th centuries. For something to last that long, it must be truly special. Today we begin a sermon series in which we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In order for this event to have impacted our lives over so many centuries, it must be truly special. But today we do not simply look back at the past, but we also look forward to what God's Church will look like in the future.

Pre-Service Music

500Forward Video

Welcome

Sharing of the Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).

704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

LSB 704



1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, And let my
2 Re - move the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all
3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, That glad - ly
4 Grant that I on - ly You may love And seek those



heart and soul be bright, Il - lu - mined with the
my im - pu - ri - ty That I may have the
I o - bey Your Word. Let what You will be
things which are a - bove Till I be - hold You



light of grace That is - sues from Your ho - ly face.
strength and will Temp - ta - tions of the flesh to still.
my de - sire, And with new life my soul in - spire.
face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through Your grace.

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Stand

Opening Litany and Invocation:

P: Lord God, You are our Mighty Fortress (Psalm 46:1)

C: **Our Help in times of trouble. (Psalm 46:1)**

P: Lord our God, You are our Refuge and our strength (Psalm 46:1)

C: **You are the Rock of our salvation. (Psalm 62:2)**

P: Lord our God, You are our deliverer, You fight for Your people. (Psalm 18:2)

C: **The Battle is not ours, it is the Lord's. (2 Chron. 20:15)**

P: Lord our God, You raise up the Lowly and the humble in spirit and you bring down the proud and the arrogant. (Matt. 23:12)

C: **Humble yourself before the LORD and He will lift you up. (James 4:10)**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Confession:

P: Heavenly Father, this morning, we come before you in humility, knowing that our lives are not what they ought to be, and that we are not following you like we should.

C: **Father, we know that we need to be Reformed. Like the Church in Luther's day, we have gone our own way. We have followed our own hearts. We have been lovers of ourselves, lovers of money and lovers of things. We have been selfish and have not put you or our neighbor first.**

We have not been prepared to share the Gospel. We have not been willing to reprove, rebuke, or encourage one another like we should. We have not been patient in receiving Your instruction for our lives. We have not always tolerated sound doctrine, but instead we have had itching ears and have gathered around us teachers who suit our own desires, and we have turned away from Your truth to the myths of our world. (2 timothy 4) For this we humbly come before You and pray, restore us, renew us and reform us through Your Blood and your word...Lord have Mercy, Christ, have Mercy, Lord have mercy upon us. Amen.

(Time of Silent confession and meditation)

Absolution: *(put the scripture on the screen during the absolution)*

P: In 2 Corinthians chapter five (17-18), Holy Scripture says that *“from now on we regard no one according to the flesh. Although we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ”* and because of that we have been made new and are daily reformed through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. And as a called and ordained servant of the Word I hereby forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Kyrie

LSB 152

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the wonderful heritage of faith that we have been given through the event of the reformation of your church. Today Lord, we see that this reformation is not complete. We live in a world of brokenness and despair, of pain and suffering and just like the church in Luther's day, our world needs to be reformed. Our Churches need to be reformed and our own hearts need to be reformed by Your Son's blood, through Grace, Faith and the power of Your Holy Word. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

P The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, the eighteenth chapter.

The Soul Who Sins Shall Die

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

P The Epistle is from Philippians, the second chapter.

Christ's Example of Humility

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

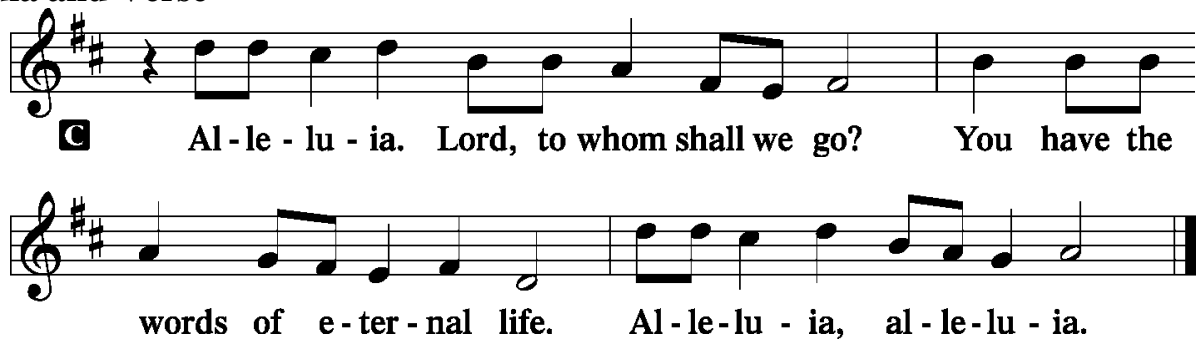
¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23–27

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Authority of Jesus Challenged

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

Pastor Perez

507 Holy, Holy, Holy

LSB 507 sts. 1-4



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide Thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.
 Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Stand

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray to our dear Father in heaven as His dear children, begging Him to hear us in His mercy and grant to us all things needful and profitable for our salvation.

Brief silence

Gracious God, we give You thanks for Your faithfulness in raising up voices in every age and generation to recall Your people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Remembering Martin Luther and all those who have worked for the sake of the Kingdom, we ask You to raise up in *our own time* faithful pastors and church workers who will preach Jesus Christ crucified and risen, for the edification of Your people and for the sake of those not yet of the faith. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father, You did not abandon us to sin and its death but delivered up Your own Son to the cross in order to redeem a lost and condemned people. Keep this Gospel as the center of the Church's proclamation to the world, and keep us from abandoning this confession, especially in time of persecution and threat. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, You sent forth faithful leaders who protected those who risked all to renew the doctrine and life of Your Church with the Gospel. Raise up faithful leaders in our own time who will honor Your Word, govern according to Your wisdom and provide freedom to worship without fear. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, You continually look upon us in our weakness and infirmity and grant grace sufficient for our need. Give comfort to those who mourn and give peace to those in their hour of death, deliver the sick from their afflictions, relieve the suffering. [*We especially remember before You: Barbara, Doug, Carlos, Robert, Hever, Elma, Norman & Virginia, T.C., Rose, Rosalinda, Bonnie, Randy, _____ and all who have asked for our prayers.*] May Your strength be made perfect in their weakness, Your patience sustain them in their troubles, and Your peace console them until You deliver them with perfect healing. Guard our first responders and our service men and women both here and abroad, especially *Ernie & Kaz, Noe, Jack, Taylor, Christopher, Brenden & Christopher, Mark & Christopher, Wolfgang & Lee.* Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty Lord, You have given us Your Word. Grant that we may teach it and learn it well. Unite us as one people in the faithful doctrine of Your Son. Guide us toward the future You have prepared. Restore the wandering, and bring the lost to repentance and faith by the power of Your Spirit through Your Means of Grace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed Lord, You know better than we our needs and the needs of Your Church and Your world. Give us faith, that we may not fear in time of trouble nor fall away in time of prosperity. As we have been given this day and this time, give us the wisdom neither to squander the moment nor to become captive to it, but so to use the things temporal that we may not be deprived of the things eternal. For in You, with You and through You are all things, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to You we give glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

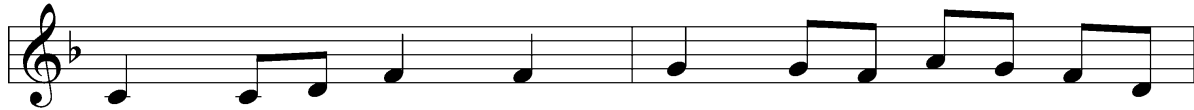
Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory

782 Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings



1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings
3 In His earth - ly life, our Sav - ior



New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies
Knew the care of faith - ful friends; May our deeds of



nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.
ded - i - ca - tion Of - fer love that nev - er ends.

Refrain



Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,



Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

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Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

C 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.

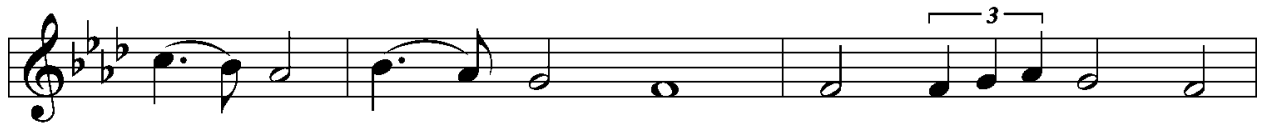
Sit

Distribution

578 Thy Strong Word

LSB 578

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark-ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark-ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be-speaks us righ-teous; Bright with
 4 From the cross Thy wis-dom shin-ing Break-eth



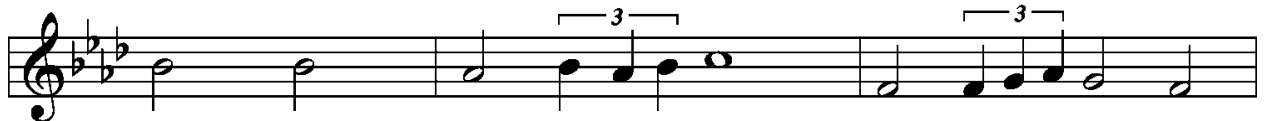
speaking it was done. For created
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own holiness, Glorious now, we
 forth in conquering might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.
 Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
 press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.
 ever beam-eth All Thy bright redeeming light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias,
 Alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
 To Thee laud and honor be.
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
 Praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 Glory, glory be to Thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 Praise the holy Trinity!

579 The Law of God Is Good and Wise

LSB 579



1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His
 2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts The knowl - edge
 3 To those who help in Christ have found And would in
 4 But those who scorn - ful - ly dis - dain God's Law shall



will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ - teous -
 of our sin - ful hearts That we may see our lost es -
 works of love a - bound It shows what deeds are His de -
 then in sin re - main; Its ter - ror in their ear re -



ness, And dooms to death when we trans - gress.
 tate And turn from sin be - fore too late.
 light And should be done as good and right.
 sounds And keeps their wick - ed - ness in bounds.

5 The Law is good; but since the fall
 Its holiness condemns us all;
 It dooms us for our sin to die
 And has no pow'r to justify.

6 To Jesus we for refuge flee,
 Who from the curse has set us free,
 And humbly worship at His throne,
 Saved by His grace through faith alone.

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Stand

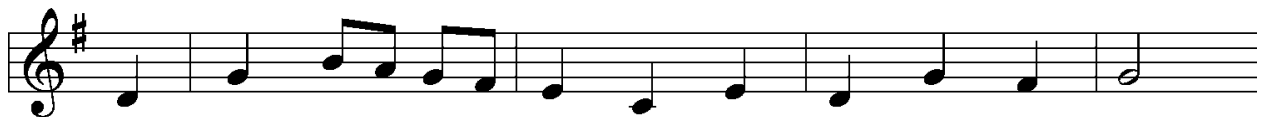
Post-Communion Canticle

643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

LSB 643



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing,
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,



The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.



The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,

The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
U - nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing

To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

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Post-Communion Collect

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Benediction

As you leave God's house today, do so knowing that you are remade and reformed through the blood of Christ and trusting that the Lord bless you and keep you, that the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, that the Lord look upon you with His favor, and give you His peace.

C Amen

Sit

Announcements



924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

LSB 924



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

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Question of the Day: Why are we celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation? What does it matter? Why is it called 500 Forward and not 500 backward?

Theme: We are a church moving Forward into the future with the power of the Gospel of Christ! While we embrace our heritage and love our past, we cannot cling to anything but Jesus! The theme of this sermon is to begin the sermon series by explaining that, just like the church in Luther's day, we all need a Reformation to go forward. Our world needs to be reformed. Our Church body needs to be reformed. Our Churches need to be reformed and our own individual hearts need to be reformed by Christ, through Grace, Faith and the power of His Holy Word.

Readings Summary: *The Cross of Christ Opens to Us the Way of Repentance to Life with God*

The way of the Lord is righteous and just: "*the soul who sins shall die*" (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has "*no pleasure in the death of anyone*" (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, "*shall surely live; he shall not die*" (Ezek. 18:28). This way of repentance has been opened for us by the cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, "*he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death*" (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Indeed, "*God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name*" (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now "*shine as lights in the world*" (Phil. 2:15). He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23–27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even "*the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God*" (Matt. 21:31–32).