

500 Forward: Being the Church of the Future

Sola Fide: "Faith Alone"

October 15, 2017

As We Gather: As we gather today we hear people talk about the difficulty to have "faith" in a god whom they have never seen. But these same people often don't realize that we are daily putting our faith in things that we cannot see. We are often "trusting" in the unknown that we cannot control. For example, I have faith that because he has certain training and certification, I trust that my tax-guy is doing my taxes right and that I won't get audited. I have faith that when I get on an airplane, the people who built it did not forget any nuts or bolts, and I have faith that the pilot will get the plane back on the ground safely.

Pre-Service Music

Video - Faith Alone

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).

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

LSB 720 sts. 1, 3-4



1 We walk by faith and not by sight, No
3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4 For You, O res - ur - rect - ed Lord, Are



gra - cious words we hear From Him who spoke as
may our faith a - bound To call on You when
found in means di - vine: Be - neath the wa - ter



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve Him near.
You are near And seek where You are found.
and the Word, Be - neath the bread and wine.

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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, we come before you knowing that we lack faith. Today we need you to forgive us our sins and grant us the faith to trust that You can truly move mountains as we follow you today.

C: **Lord God, we know that our faith is not strong. Our prayers have been too small while our problems have seemed too big. We have not put our trust fully in You to provide each day with our daily bread, but instead we have chased after the wind in order to provide for our needs on our own. Lord, we have suffered from the sin of idolatry by setting ourselves up and making You bow down to us. But in the end we are the ones who need to humble ourselves and bow down before you. So today Lord, humble us, let us trust that you are God and we are not and let us have faith that can withstand all that Satan, the world and our sinful flesh may throw at us. So today we pray, Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy upon us. Amen.**

(Time of Silent confession and meditation)

Absolution:

P: Our God is a great and gracious God, He opposes the proud, but lifts up the humble, and when we put our faith where it belongs, not on ourselves, but in the Grace of God in the blood of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. And as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce to you that you have this marvelous promise of the forgiveness of sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Collect:

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

Heavenly Father, we live in a world in which we struggle to know exactly who it is that we can truly trust. Today, Lord strengthen us as we put our faith in You, the One who never fails us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sit

A Look at The Reformation: Family

Reader 1: A Reformation journey that centers on Martin Luther is of necessity a family event. Luther changed centuries of tradition in the Western Church by encouraging the marriage of clergy—including monks and nuns, if they felt that the married estate was their calling. And Luther had nothing but praise for being married. He wrote: “Next to God’s Word, the world has not a more lovely and endearing treasure on earth than the holy state of matrimony, which He has Himself instituted, preserving it, having adorned and blessed it above all stations.” Although Luther was initially hesitant to marry, fearing that he could be executed as a heretic at any time, the encouragement of his family and friends and the acceptance by Katharina von Bora of his proposal of marriage led him to be married in the summer of 1525.

Reader 2: The home that Martin and his beloved Katie established was one in which the joy of family life was central. Six children were born to the couple, and the household expanded as the family took in orphans and relatives who needed a place to call home. Although Luther was busy with his church and university

duties, he made sure there were times of enjoyment for everyone in the family circle. He stated, “Work is not the only way to serve the Lord. Celebrating and relaxing can be service as well.” Joining for singing and playing musical instruments together, especially after the evening meal, was a special way in which the Luther family celebrated and relaxed.

Reader 1: The convivial tone that Luther set for family life was in contrast to the way in which he had been reared. Both his father, Hans, and his mother, Margaretha, were typical of their era in being firm disciplinarians who raised their son strictly and with great expectations. Their son Martin, named for a caring and charitable saint, always maintained his respect for his parents. In his Large Catechism, Luther commented on the Fourth Commandment in this way: “To the position of fatherhood and motherhood God has given special distinction above all positions that are beneath it: He does not simply command us to love our parents, but to honor them” (LC I 105). Luther maintained close ties with his parents, who were especially delighted at the birth of their grandson Hans in June 1526. Martin and Katie Luther set the standard for parsonage life that influenced the following generations of clergy families in many ways.

Reader 2: In medieval times it was almost an assumption that children were born and reared for the benefit of their parents, who exerted control over every aspect of their lives. In advocating that proper education for all children, Luther asserted that children were to be raised for the good of the entire society, not just for their own personal gain and for the wealth of their immediate families. He wrote: “For if we wish to have excellent and able persons both for civil and Church leadership, we must spare no diligence, time, or cost in teaching and educating our children, so that they may serve God and the world. We must not think only about how we may amass money and possessions for them” (LC I 172–73). Luther believed in the spiritual, moral, intellectual, and physical education of young people, a heritage kept alive in Lutheran homes and churches today. He saw both work and relaxation as gifts from God, a perspective we can gratefully share five hundred years later. Typical of his outlook was his observation that “the Christian should be a person of few words and great deeds.”

Epistle (*Pastor Perez*)

Romans 3:21–31; 4:3–5, 17–25

☐ The Epistle is from Romans, beginning with the third chapter.

The Righteousness of God Through Faith

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²²the righteousness of God

through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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. ²⁶It 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.

²⁷Then 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. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰since God is one. He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." ²³But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel (*Pastor Perez*)

John 20:24-31

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them,

“Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

A Look at The Reformation: Heritage

Reader 1: The legacy of Martin Luther and his co-workers from the time of the Reformation certainly is related to our lives of faith. Luther rediscovered the good news of God’s forgiveness in Christ given by faith without any merit or worthiness on our part. Luther, in translating the Old and New Testaments into the language of the German people, opened Scripture to everyday people and thus reinvigorated what is called “the priesthood of all believers.” Luther’s liturgical writing and hymn composition for the Church changed the shape of sacred music and made it a treasure to be shared by all Christians in worship. Luther’s focus on “what put forth Christ” redirected the proclamation of Christian preachers and has influenced the direction of world Christianity for half a millennium.

Reader 2: Luther’s influence reaches far beyond the world of the Church and local congregations. His emphasis on the value of each person paved the way for government systems that reflected the will of more than a ruler or ruling class. Luther’s insistence on education for girls as well as for boys set the stage for universal education of all children. His insistence that being married was to be valued as much as the monastic life chosen by many in his time has elevated the status of the family. Luther’s love for and contributions to the music of the Church continue to echo in sanctuaries around the world.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

LSB 702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

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Sermon

Sola Fide: "Faith Alone"

Pastor King

John 20:31

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Perez

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray as Your people, gracious Lord, for the whole Church, that the name of Jesus may be honored throughout the world and the Gospel message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed. Lord, in Your mercy,.

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for the nations, mighty Lord, that the things that lead to peace may be accomplished and that people may live without fear in all places around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for our families, loving Lord, and for the neighborhoods in which we live. May there be a sense of mutual trust and care in every place. May the work of elected officials, civil servants, and caregivers be blessed among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for the armed forces of our nation, defending Lord, that they may carry out their assignments with a sense of support and purpose. Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for those with special needs this day, caring Lord, as we remember those who are hospitalized, [*including . . .*], those who mourn, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all others whose situations are not known to us at this time. We also remember those who are traveling away from home in this season. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of time and of eternity, we thank You for the examples of FAITH in devoted Christians of previous generations whose witness and ministry has blessed us. Guide us that we may continue in the ways of FAITH they have established, that one day we may rejoice together eternally at Your throne. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer. Amen.**

Sit

Reformation Journey Destinations

Reader 1: A Reformation journey that is focused on the life of Martin Luther

takes the traveler on a circular path. The place where Luther was born and the house in which he died are only a few blocks away from each other in the town of Eisleben in central Germany. The house in which he was born around midnight on November 10, 1483, was a comfortable living space for Margaretha and Hans Luder and their growing family in the Saxon mining village. The new baby was taken by his father from the family home the day after his birth for Holy Baptism in the church of Sts. Peter and Paul and was named for St. Martin of Tours, a Christian chaplain of the fourth century, whose day on the church calendar is November 11. When Martin was three months old, his family moved to the nearby town of Mansfeld, where Martin began his school career, receiving an education according to the classical model, which included Latin, rhetoric, and logic as well as music. Luther always treasured his rural roots, enjoyed being out in the countryside, and included reflections on village life and elements of folk wisdom in his preaching and writing.

Reader 2: No Reformation journey is complete without a visit to the city of Wittenberg, which is now known officially as Lutherstadt Wittenberg because of its most famous resident, Martin Luther. In the year 1502, Elector Frederick the Wise decided to establish a university in his royal city. It was named the Leucorea University of Electoral Saxony and soon began to attract local and international students and a growing faculty. In 1508, Martin Luther was invited to visit the town and give lectures at the university. His lectures were held in the Augustinian cloister, which would later become Luther's home, and in the Castle Church. Although his first lecture assignment was for only one semester, he received a permanent assignment to the school in 1511. Wittenberg would be his home for the rest of his life. Among his activities in Wittenberg, Luther served as university lecturer, hymnwriter, counselor and arbiter of legal matters, and preacher at St. Mary's, the city church. Beginning in 1508, Luther lived in the Augustinian cloister in Wittenberg, not far from the town center. After Luther's marriage to Katherine von Bora, he was given this residence to serve as his family home by the elector of Saxony. Two of the highest places in elevation in the city of Wittenberg are the Market Square, which today includes a statue of the great reformer, and the Castle Square, location of All Saints' Church—also known as the Castle Church—where Luther's grave is located. The famous wooden doors to which he nailed the Ninety-Five Theses in 1517 have been replaced by a permanent bronze "Theses Door" erected in 1858.

Reader 1: If there was any specific event that became central to the Reformation, it was Martin Luther's appearance before the royal diet, or assembly, called by Emperor Charles V in the city of Worms, an imperial fortress city located on the

Rhine River. One of the oldest cities in Germany, it is the location of the Cathedral of St. Peter, which was already more than three hundred years old when Luther came to the city in April 1521. Although the building in which Luther made his courageous stand before the emperor in defense of the Gospel is no longer extant in Worms, the reformer and his associates are well remembered in the city through a massive monument crafted in 1868 that features a number of the major personalities of the Reformation era surrounding Luther himself. At the conclusion of his hearing before the emperor, Luther commended himself to God, saying simply, “God help me. Amen.” As Luther left Worms at the end of ten days, his ideas for reforming the Church contained in the writings he would not disavow were only beginning to take root and grow in Germany and beyond.

Offering

Stand

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.**

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 – “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”

LSB 434 vs1

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

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Sit

Distribution

Built on the Rock

LSB 645



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how



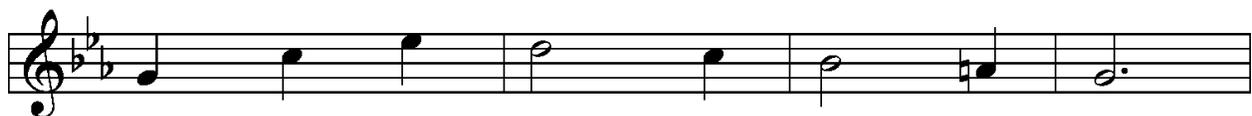
steeples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
Choos - es to live with us in love,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,



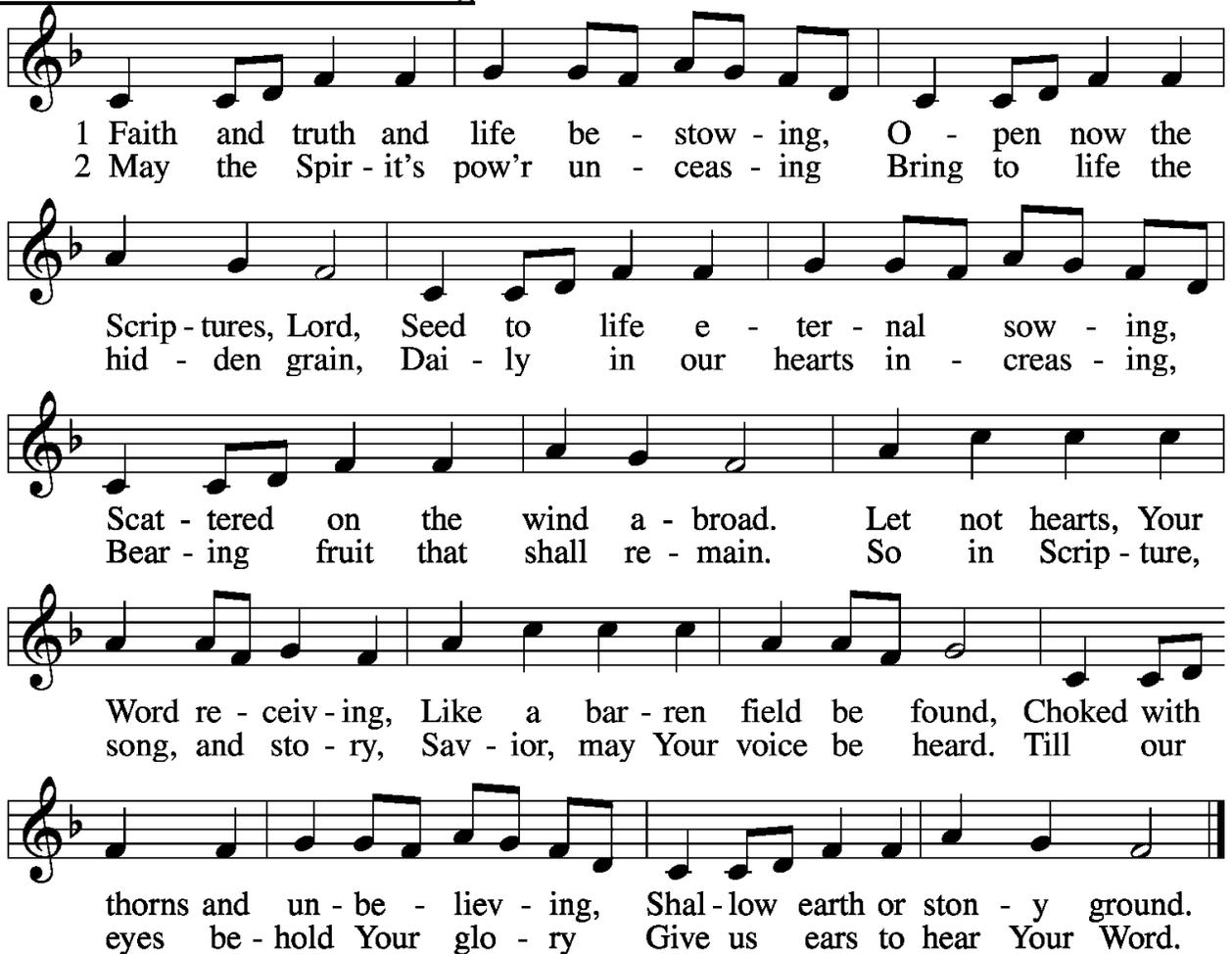
Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
With all His grace and His fa - vor.
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.

5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message 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."

Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

LSB 584



1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the

Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,

Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,

Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with
song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our

thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.
eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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Post-Communion Collect

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Benediction

LSB 166

P As you leave God's house today, have FAITH in the One who has your life in His hand and has promised never to leave or forsake you, and know that...
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Announcements



822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring

LSB 822



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! To God the Fa -
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Lamb
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to the Ho -
4 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais - es ring! Un - to our tri -



ther let us bring Our songs of ad - o - ra - tion.
of God we sing, In whom we are e - lect - ed.
ly Ghost we sing For our re - gen - er - a - tion.
une God we sing; Blest be His name for - ev - er!



To Him through ev - er - last - ing days Be wor - ship, hon -
He bought His Church with His own blood, He cleansed her in
The sav - ing faith in us He wrought And us un - to
With an - gel hosts let us a - dore And sing His prais -



or, pow'r, and praise, Whose hand sus - tains cre - a - tion.
that bless - ed flood, And as His bride se - lect - ed.
the Bride-groom brought, Made us His cho - sen na - tion.
es ev - er - more For all His grace and fa - vor!



Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;
Ho - ly, ho - ly Is our u - nion And com - mu - nion.
Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Joy e - ter - nal, Bliss su - per - nal;
Sing - ing, ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly;



Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry.
His be - friend - ing Gives us joy and peace un - end - ing.
There is man - na And an end - less, glad ho - san - na.
Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry!

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Question of the Day: What does faith look like in our world today? The way people talk about God, I sometimes wonder if faith is something that older people tend to be able to comprehend well, but something that young people don't have a sense or a grasp of. If I were preaching for this day I would try to tease out why faith is important. If you talk to young people today, they don't have any comprehension of trust any more. They don't trust the government (too many politicians seem to be willing to do anything to get their own way). They don't trust their parents (too many wedding vows have been broken over the years). They don't trust the police (We saw that in the recent "Black Lives Matter" campaigns). But who do they trust? Usually they trust their friends. Why? Because my friends have my back. My friends have never cheated me or back-stabbed me. My friends are always there for me. But the question is raised...but are they really? This is where we see that all man-made institutions and friendships we have can break down because they all sinfully and selfishly look to their own interests. But only Jesus is the faithful one who has never sinned, has never failed us and has never been betrayed, but instead allowed himself to be betrayed on our behalf.

Theme: What is Saving Faith? Faith without works is dead...what does it mean to trust in the words of communion today, "Given and shed for me?"