

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
New Castle, IN
October 25, 2020
Reformation Sunday**

Introduction to the day

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Welcome in the name of Jesus! As we gather around word and sacrament as the people of God, we gather to bear communal witness to Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the life of the world. As the world continues to be in the grip of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we remember in prayer those who are sick and those on the frontlines of the pandemic who care for the sick.

As part of our communal witness, the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church council has passed the following guidelines and code of conduct that will frame our gathering for worship as the people of God. As we gather for worship this day, our actions in relation to these guidelines and code of conduct are an important part of this communal witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ—witness that is grounded in the love of God and love of our neighbor.

Please take time before worship to review these guidelines. In particular, please note that it is extremely important that we follow social distancing guidelines and that face coverings are worn over your nose and mouth at all times while in the building.

Thank you for your presence here today, and for bearing this important witness in our world at this time, for Jesus' sake.

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Guidelines for In-person Worship**

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The following of these guidelines during our in-person gathering IS loving your neighbor.

- All individuals over the age of 65 or who have an underlying health risk, are encouraged to view worship online from home
- 6' of personal space will be expected in the entrance, the Narthex, the steps to the Sanctuary, on the pews, and in the restrooms.
- Masks will be worn by adults while in the church and during worship
- Bulletins will be placed directly on the pews
- Offering will be placed in the plates that will be set by the doors to the sanctuary
- Posters will be placed as reminders of personal hygiene practices

- Restroom doors will remain open, water fountain will be closed
- Children should remain with an adult at all times; materials for children need to be brought from home
- Dismissal will be directed by the Pastor

Code of Conduct

Do not attend church activities when you are feeling ill or running a fever.

Avoid close contact with non-family members:

- Maintain 6 feet distance from non-family members.
- Do not shake hands or touch non-family members.

Wash your hands:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Wash for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others:

- Wear cloth face mask when indoors and other people are present.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God—EIN FESTE BURG. Martin Luther. Arranged by Lloyd Larson. © 1999 Lorenz Publishing Co., a division of the Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

God's Word forever shall abide,
 no thanks to foes, who fear it;
 for God himself fights by our side
 with weapons of the Spirit.
 Were they to take our house,
 goods, honor, child, or spouse,
 though life be wrenched away,
 they cannot win the day.
 The kingdom's ours forever!

— Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,
have mercy on us.
**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**
**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**
**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**
We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.
We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.
**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.
Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.
Amen.

MUSIC MEDITATION

Be Thou My Vision—Traditional Irish Hymn. Arranged by Melody Bober. Arrangement ©
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Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

— Irish, 8th century

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹The 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 their husband, 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

³though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**

⁷The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**

¹¹The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his 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. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They 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’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

MUSIC MEDITATION

Grace Greater Than Our Sin—Julia Johnston & Daniel Towner. Arranged by Melody Bober. Arrangement © 2000 The FJH Music Company Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more. (Romans 5:20, NRSV)

PRESENTATION

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.

Steve: I present Ashlyn Bell and Erin Kitchell, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters,
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.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The assembly is invited to stand.

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?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

The assembly may be seated.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

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?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

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

The confirmands are invited to kneel.

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.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Ashlyn the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her in her serving, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life.

Amen.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in Erin the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her in her serving, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life.

Amen.

The confirmands stand and face the assembly.

Let us rejoice with these sisters in Christ.

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 INTERCESSION

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

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Stir up the gift of your Holy Spirit in Ashlyn, Erin, and all those who affirm their faith this day. May your Spirit of wisdom and understanding, your Spirit of counsel and might, and your Spirit of knowledge and joy, guide and shape their lives. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

You are invited into a time of prayer and contemplation as we prayerfully consider how the gifts of our very selves, our time, and our financial resources can be given for sake of the mission of this congregation and the larger Church. Your offering of financial gifts may be placed in the trays just outside the entrance of the sanctuary. You may also give online by going to www.holytrinitync.org and clicking on the button labeled "GIVE."

During this time, communion kits will be distributed.

Be Still and Know—Steven Curtis Chapman. Arranged by Marilyn Ham. © 1999 by Sparrow Song/Peach Hill Songs 2/BMI. All rights administered by EMI CMG Publishing.

Be still and know that I am God. — Psalm 46:10, NRSV. (Psalm for Reformation Sunday)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION

Please carefully open your communion kits.

The presiding minister says:

“The body of Christ, given for you.”
(The communicant eats the bread.)

“The blood of Christ, shed for you.”
(The communicant drinks the wine.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

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