



**GRACE SAYS,
“BELIEVE IN
THIS,” AND
EVERYTHING
IS ALREADY
DONE.**

**JOINT
REFORMATION
SERVICE**

**OCTOBER 28
3:00 PM**

**MARTIN
LUTHER
COLLEGE
CHAPEL OF THE
CHRIST**

THE FESTIVAL OF THE REFORMATION

October 28, 2018

Welcome to the Joint Reformation Service of the Mankato and River Valley Conferences. We are glad you are able to join us. Our celebration is guided by the 500th anniversary of the Heidelberg Disputation. What is that, you ask? Luther had originally posted the 95 Theses the year before in 1517, which we celebrated last year, hoping for a debate which never happened. A year later, the head of the Augustinian Order of monks, to which Luther belonged, called for a formal disputation or debate to be attended by the leadership of the order. Luther would be given an opportunity to expand on his concern over indulgences.

While the 95 Theses are more famous, the theses debated at Heidelberg, in many ways, are more significant. With another year in the Scriptures, Martin Luther grew in his realization that the theology of late Medieval Roman Catholicism was fundamentally and essentially at odds with Biblical theology.

At Heidelberg, Luther shared that the “theology of the cross”, rather than the church’s “theology of glory”, was faithful to the teachings of Scripture. The glory of Christ and of the Christian is hidden in the cross. Luther also asserted more firmly that salvation cannot come through keeping God’s law but rather from Christ alone. It is that emphasis which guides our worship today as Luther states it in Thesis 26 of the Heidelberg Disputation:

The law says, “Do this” and it is never done. Grace says, “Believe this” and everything is already done.

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Marques Nelson, St. Paul Lutheran Church, North Mankato

Preacher: Pastor Roger Kneppath, St. Paul Lutheran Church, North Mankato

Organist: Mr. Steven Biedenbender

Martin Luther College Chorale under the direction of Professor Jonathan Laabs

Learn More About The Work Of Our Regional Kingdom Worker Team

Your MN Valley Regional Kingdom Workers team invites you to join them following this service in the Chapel basement. We will learn of the mission efforts in our area by our four summer workers that served 12 congregations, the Celebrate Missions teen retreat event, and the Praise and Proclaim event we supported in St. Peter. Following the reports and updates, you may join us for a complimentary supper in the college cafeteria. A free will offering will be collected to support ongoing mission work by our mission team.

Acknowledgements

Interior Service Folder Artwork ©Ian M. Welch. Paramentics.com

Luther Seal ©Corissa Nelson. Corissanelsonart.com

Hymns included under OneLicense.net #A-727266

Stand as the hymn is introduced and face the cross at the back of the chapel. Follow its path to the chancel where it serves as the focus of Christian worship.



1 In trem - bling hands, Lord God, we hold Our
 2 "In trem - bling hands"— for how could we Re -
 3 "In trem - bling hands"— with joy - ous awe, Like
 4 "In trem - bling hands"— and yet we cling With
 5 "In trem - bling hands"— the trea - sure won We



her - it - age, your gift of grace, Your
 tain your gift by our own pow'r? The
 Lu - ther, we be - hold your Son: For
 grip of steel, which you must give, To
 on - ly hold through Scrip - ture, Lord. Then



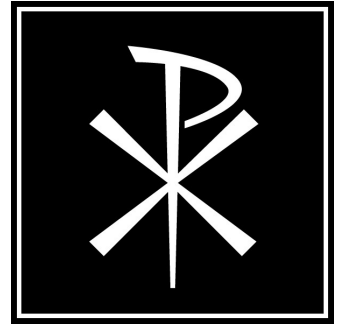
gos - pel, bring - ing wealth un - told: All
 pearl of price - less worth would be Soon
 us he kept your ho - ly law, In
 Christ, our all, our ev - 'ry - thing, To
 keep us all, till life is done, As



bles - sings here, in heav'n a place.
 lost— at - tend us ev - 'ry hour!
 dy - ing full sal - va - tion won.
 Christ, the life in whom we live.
 peo - ple trem - bling at your Word.

6 "In trembling hands"—if it be so,
 How can our hearts remain unstirred
 While millions still in tatters go
 Nor yet of wealth in Christ have heard?

7 In trembling hands, Lord God, we hold
 Our heritage; now give us hands
 That gladly share your heav'nly gold
 With needy souls in many lands!



This Reformation hymn was written in 1967 by Werner Franzmann. The tune was written in 1974 at the request of Franzmann who later expressed great satisfaction for the tune. Its appearance in *Christian Worship: a Lutheran Hymnal* was its first appearance of both tune and text in a hymnal.

REFORMATION DIALOGUE

M: No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

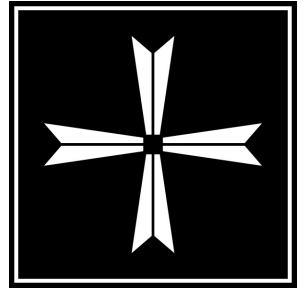
Romans 3:20

C: All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

Galatians 3:10

M: Whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

Romans 3:19



- C: You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.** *Galatians 5:4*
- M: I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.** *Romans 1:16*
- C: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.** *Galatians 4:4-5*
- M: Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.** *Romans 4:25*
- C: 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 2:26-27*
- M: A righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ .** *Romans 3:21-24*
- C: Even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!** *Galatians 1:8*
- M: Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.** *Romans 10:17*
- C: We have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.** *Galatians 2:16*
- M: Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.** *Romans 5:1-2*
- C: God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. You are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.** *Galatians 4:6-7*
- M: What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?** *Romans 8:31-32*
- C: 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*



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y thanks



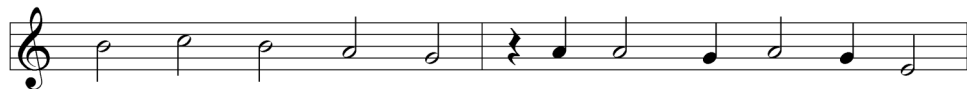
and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant one
 de - your us, We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; He's by our side up - on the plain



That has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 With his good gifts and Spir - it. And do



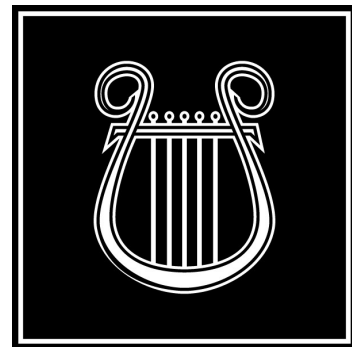
e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
 what they will— Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—



Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
 The al - might - y Lord. And there's no oth - er God;
 He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
 Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is won;



On earth is not his e - qual.
 He holds the field for - ev - er.
 One lit - tle word can fell him.
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!



It is not known for certain when Martin Luther wrote this hymn. It was first printed in a hymnal in 1529 under the title "The 46th Psalm". It was a hymn of great comfort to Luther and his followers because when he was discouraged he would often invite his friends to sing it for courage and strength.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, through the preaching of your servants, the blessed Reformers, you caused the light of the gospel to shine forth. Grant that we may faithfully defend it against all enemies and joyfully proclaim it to the salvation of people everywhere to the glory of your holy name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD



First Lesson

Genesis 15:1-6

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” ²But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” ⁴Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” ⁵He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” ⁶Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Introit For Reformation

Martin Luther College Chorale

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Therefore will we not fear though the earth be removed
And the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Second Lesson

Galatians 3:10-14

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law. Clearly no one is justified before God by observing the law, because “The righteous will live by faith.” The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed us in order that the blessings given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, so that by faith we might receive the promised Spirit.

The Lessons today provide the proof to Luther's Theses, showing that God requires nothing of us for salvation through the law, but that everything is done by God's grace in Christ. All these blessings of God's grace are acquired by faith in God's promised grace. The Introit For Reformation is a paraphrase of Psalm 46, the appointed Psalm for Reformation,



Chorale

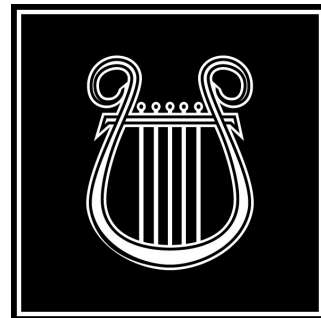
Thou Hidden Love of God

J. Aaron McDermid

Based on *VATER UNSER*

Text by Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769)

Translated by John Wesley (1703-1791)



Thou hidden love of God, whose height,
Whose depth unfathomed no one
knows,
I see from afar thy beauteous light,
And inly sigh for thy repose;
My heart is pained, nor can I be
at rest, until I rest in thee.

And all my steps to theeward tend?
Is there a thing beneath the sun
That strives with thee my heart to share?
Ah, tear it thence and reign alone,
The Lord of ev'ry motion there.
Make me thy duteous child that I
May ceaseless "Abba, Father" cry.

'Tis mercy all that thou hast brought
My mind to seek its peace in thee;
Yet while I seek, but find thee not,
No peace my wand'ring soul shall see.
O when shall all my wand'rings end,

Each moment draw from earth away
My heart that lowly waits thy call;
Speak to my inmost soul and say,
"I am thy love, thy God, thy all!"
To feel thy pow'r, to hear thy voice,
to taste thy love, be all my choice.

My heart is pained, nor can it be at rest,
until I rest in thee.

Stand for the Holy Gospel

M: The Gospel according to John, chapter 3

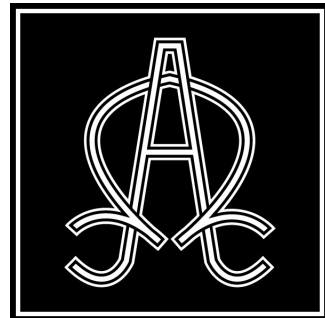
C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Please Be Seated



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace
 Choir 2 What God does in his law de - mand And none to him
 3 It is a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God his law
 4 Yet as the law must be ful - filled Or we must die
 Choir 5 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us



and fa - vor. Good works can - not a - vert our doom;
 can ren - der Brings wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand
 has giv - en That sin - ners can them - selves re - deem
 de - spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled,
 sal - va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad



They help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to
 For man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has
 And by their works gain heav - en. The law is
 Our hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for
 And build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a -



Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 not those pure de - sires The spir - it of the
 but a mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
 us the law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's
 lone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my



world a - tone; He is the one Re - deem - er.
 law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 venge - ance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.
 life in - deed, For you have paid my ran - som.

6 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
 To Father, Son, and Spirit,
 The God who saved us by his grace—
 All glory to his merit!
 O Triune God in heav'n above,
 You have revealed your saving love;
 Your blessed name be hallowed!

This hymn is one of the oldest and best known of Lutheran hymns and has been referred to as the true confessional hymn of the Reformation. Martin Luther shed tears when he heard it sung by a street singer outside his window in Wittenberg.

God has Control
 1. You don't need it
 2. You won't want it

Please Stand

CONFESSION OF FATH

Excerpts from the Augsburg Confession

M: In the first place, it is with one accord taught and held, following the decree of the Council of Nicea, that there is one divine essence which is named God and truly is God.

C: But there are three persons in the same one essence, equally powerful, equally eternal: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three are one divine essence, eternal, undivided, unending, of immeasurable power, wisdom and goodness, the creator and preserver of all visible and invisible things.

M: Likewise, it is taught that God the Son became a human being, born of the pure Virgin Mary, and that the two natures, the divine and the human, are so inseparably united in one person that there is one Christ.

C: He is true God and true human being who truly “was born, suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried” in order both to be a sacrifice not only for original sin but also for all other sins and to conciliate God’s wrath.

M: Moreover, the same Christ “descended into hell, truly rose from the dead on the third day, ascended into heaven, is sitting at the right hand of God” in order to rule and reign forever over all creatures, so that through the Holy Spirit he may make holy, purify, strengthen, and comfort all who believe in him, also distribute to them life and various gifts and benefits, and shield and protect them against the devil and sin. Finally, the same Lord Christ “will come “ in full view of all “to judge the living and the dead.

C: Furthermore, it is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfaction, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ’s sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.

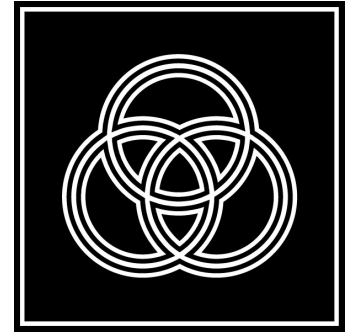
M: For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness in his sight.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

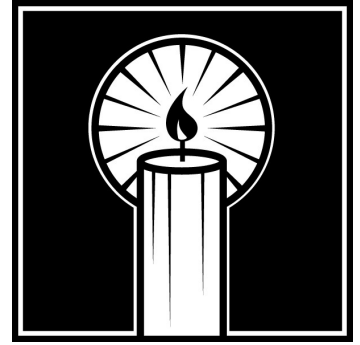
OFFERING

Please Stand



The Augsburg Confession is one of the six chief confessions of the Lutheran Church. Delivered at Augsburg in 1530, it was a clear confession of the what the Reformers believed and taught. It isn't normally used in worship, but in a setting like today can serve us well to confess our Christian faith.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH



M: Lord God, heavenly Father, you are our mighty fortress. In you we find our strength, our protection and our peace through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through the shield of faith, protect us from the flaming arrows of the evil one, knowing that with the sword of the Word of God the gates of hell cannot prevail against us. Now, we pray, help us in our every need. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: The old evil foe seeks to harm us, to deceive us and to lead us away from you, O Lord. His attacks are strong from without, his inroads into the Church are often subtle. We cannot fight him or resist him with our own strength. We cannot conquer him with our good works or with our own power. On earth is not his equal. We praise you for sending Jesus, who fights for us. Through His holy cross, Jesus has forever conquered Satan, toppling his kingdom of darkness and setting us free. Protect your Church, purchased by the blood of Jesus, from Satan's attacks. Continue to raise up faithful pastors and teachers, warriors in Your Kingdom, who proclaim Jesus and His cross as our only hope and joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: All have sinned and fallen short of your glory, O Lord. Good works could not avert our doom. But as your strong Word cleaved the darkness with light at Your creation, it also bespeaks us righteous at the font. It is here where you made us your own, granted us faith and clothed us with your robe of righteousness. Cause us to return to our Baptism each day through the confession of our sins, holding firmly to your promise that we are justified by faith apart from works of the Law. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: O Dayspring from on high, splendor of light everlasting, in your love for us you came into this world, swallowed by the eternal night of sin and death, as the Light of light. Through your Church, continue to shine the Gospel into this dark world. Remove all that would obscure your light from us: the temptation to turn your gift into an earned wage, the urge of trusting the false light from within instead of the true light from above, and the despair of unbelief that comprehends neither light nor hope. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Lord, you have charged your Church to proclaim your eternal Gospel to all who live on earth, to proclaim good news to every people, tribe, language and nation. Let your Word not return to you empty, but let it accomplish that which you desire. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: O Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, work through the proclamation of the eternal Gospel to lead more and more people to see that those who try to earn salvation by the law will never be done trying. Lead them to believe that in Christ, everything is already done, their salvation is won. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: All honor and glory are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

C: Amen.



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.

Please Be Seated

HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less | 382



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no oth -
 his un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and storm -
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly prop -
 then in him be found, Clothed in his right - eous - ness



er claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 a - lone, Fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All



oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Sung at the bedside of a friend's dying wife, Edward Mote then had the hymn published. Our verses 1 and 2 were sung to her. Edward was inspired then to write two more verses after his bedside visit. Sitting by the fire at home, he wrote two more verses, which are 3 and 4 in our hymnal. His inspiration can clearly be seen in the last two verses.

Please Stand

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation,
and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



M: 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.

C: Amen.

Remain standing for the closing hymn

HYMN

Lord, You I Love with All My Heart | 434

Lord, you I love with all my heart; I pray you ne'er from me depart;
With tender mercies cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share; Heaven itself were void and bare
If you, Lord, were not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in you no one could shake.
You are the treasure I have sought; Your precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

Choir: Lord God, 'twas your rich bounty gave My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place May glorify your lavish grace
And serve and help my neighbor.
Let no false doctrine me beguile; Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me To bear my crosses willingly.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

Lord, let at last your angels come; To Abram's bosom bear me home
That I may die unfearing.
And in its narrow chamber keep My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until your reappearing.
And then from death awaken me That my own eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, your glorious face, My Savior and my Fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise you without end.

Written about 1567, this hymn was originally titled, "hymn for the dying". It is described as "a prayer to Christ, the consolation of the soul in life and in death." It became one of the favorite hymns of many Christians throughout the centuries.