

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Rite of Confirmation
October 25, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223
www.livingspringscolumbia.org

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.



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... (Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2)

CONFIRMANDS FAITH SHARING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

People: **Amen.**

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

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Faithful God,

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God; Text: Martin Luther; Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
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APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Pastor: 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. **People: Amen.**

We are seated

FIRST READING

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

Lector: A reading from Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It 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. But 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. No 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. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life. **People: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 46

Lector: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

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

Lector: though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**People: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

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

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

Lector: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**People: Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

Lector: behold 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.

**People: "Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**

Lector: The LORD of hosts is with us;

People: the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

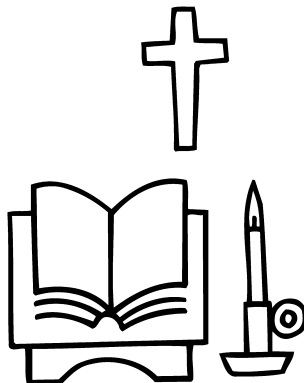
Lector: A reading from Romans.

Now 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. For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom 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; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

(Romans 3:19-28)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.



We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They 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'?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:31-36)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

REFORMATION MESSAGE (for both children & adults!)

Rev. Eric Fink

For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)

For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)

With our eyes on Jesus

WE'RE RUNNIN' THE RACE!

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone"

1: *Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see. (to Verse 2)*

2: *T'was grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed. (to Chorus)*

*Chorus: My chains are gone, I've been set free!
My God, My Savior has ransomed me!
And like a flood, His mercy rains
unending love, amazing grace.*

3: *The Lord has promised good to me
his Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures. (to Chorus)*

...unending love, amazing grace.

...unending love, amazing grace.

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+ AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM – RITE OF CONFIRMATION +

PRESENTATION

As names are called, the confirmands individually come forward to the Baptismal Font to re-trace the cross on their foreheads with water in remembrance of their baptism - and then step up to present themselves at the Lord's altar.

Leader: I present the following individuals who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism:

Lauren Bloss, baptized July 3, 2011
Preston Ginn, baptized September 9, 2004
Anna Graves, baptized January 22, 2006
Lina Mooney, baptized August 13, 2006
Dakota Shannon, baptized August 20, 2006

A cross with their initial is given to each, inscribed with the words of Isaiah 43:11, "I have called you by your name, you are mine."

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters & brothers – Lauren, Preston, Anna, Lina, and Dakota - 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.

People: Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: Lauren, Preston, Anna, Lina, and Dakota, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Each Confirmand (responding one by one): I renounce them.

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

Each Confirmand (responding one by one): I renounce them.

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

Each Confirmand (responding one by one): I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

Confirmands (responding together):

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

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

Confirmands (responding together):

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.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Confirmands (responding together):

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.

PROMISES OF COMMITMENT & LAYING ON OF HANDS

Pastor (*addressing each confirmand individually*):

_____, 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?

Each Confirmand (responding individually): I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

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

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

Confirmands kneel together before the altar.

Pastor: 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.

The pastor moves to each confirmand individually. The confirmands' parents come forward and place a red stole on the confirmand to signify their ministry as a disciple of Jesus. The stole is red to signify the Spirit's fire, is embroidered with the confirmation date, and has symbols created by each confirmand to reflect his/her calling of faith. After placement of their stole, hands are laid on that confirmand, and the pastor prays for God's blessing and the Spirit's power.

Pastor: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit: confirm his/her faith, guide his/her life, empower him/her in his serving, give him/her patience in suffering, and bring him/her to eternal life.

People: Amen.

Placement of the stole and laying on of hands is repeated for each confirmand. Each Confirmand remains kneeling and their parent(s) return to their pew.

SILENT PRAYER

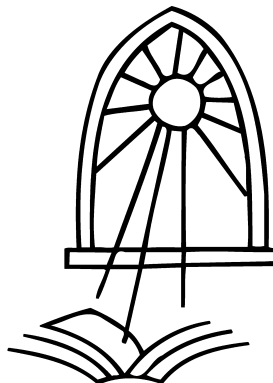
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Confirmands are invited to stand and face the congregation.

Leader: Let us rejoice with these brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: 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.

The Confirmands receive a personalized copy of Luther's Small Catechism from the congregation. After acclamation by the congregation, Confirmands remain at front of the sanctuary for the prayers.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- Assist: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.
+ A brief silence +
- Cody: 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.**
- Lina: 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.**
- Lauren: 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.**
- Preston: Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill or grieving. We pray *especially for Karl Schmidt; Gwen Brantley; Pat Bartucca; Elise Gerald; Melody Hair; Anne Ducate; Lois Mattson; Elizabeth Maddox; Henrietta Kaiser; Debbie Smith; Tammy Mancuso; Ed Brennan; Margaret Blank; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; William Appleton; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; Charles Levitt; Pat Fenzel; the Allgood family; the Eichorn family; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- Anna: 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.**
- Assist: We pray for our confirmands: *Lauren, Preston, Anna, Lina, Dakota.* Make them free to forever be sustained by your grace and empowered by your Spirit to keep the promises of commitment they make to you this day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- Pastor: 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.**
- Pastor: 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.**

PEACE IS SHARED

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We share a sign of peace, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.

Google Play



App Store



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering therefore his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Spirit of love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

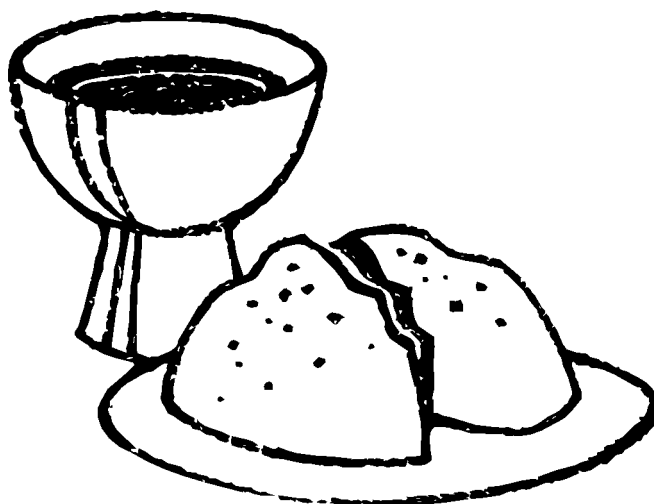
Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Friends of Jesus, come to this table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

People: Thanks be to God.



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

ALL ARE WELCOME to partake of Holy Communion, for we believe this is the Lord's Meal (not ours) and open to Christians of any background, denomination, or tradition. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in the full presence of Christ in, with, and under the elements. This Week: Confirmands & their families will be invited forward to receive communion one group at a time. All others, please remain in your places - and a communion assistant will bring the elements to you. During the COVID outbreak, we continue to temporarily utilize the sanitary-packaged individual communion elements. The wafer is located under the plastic film on top of the sealed cup - you can pull back the plastic film for the wafer, and then peel off the aluminum seal to open the cup. Feel free to either eat the wafer or drink the grape juice first, depending on which is easier for you to open. Separate individually-packaged GLUTEN-FREE wafers are also available.

COMMUNION REFLECTION

"Come As You Are "

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been.

Come, broken-hearted, let rescue begin.

Come find your mercy. O sinner come kneel:

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal,

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.

All who are broken lift up your face.

O wanderer, come home; you're not too far.

So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed:

Come sit at the table, come taste the grace.

There's rest for the weary, rest that endures.

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure.

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.

All who are broken lift up your face.

O wanderer, come home; you're not too far.

So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.

Come as you are. Fall in His arms. Come as you are.

There's joy for the morning. O sinner, be still.

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.

All who are broken lift up your face.

O wanderer, come home; you're not too far.

So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.

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POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

People: Amen

Pastor: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

People: Amen

SENDING SONG

"This Little Light of Mine"

Request by Confirmands

1. *This little light of mine,...*
2. *Jesus gave it to me,...*
3. *Ev'rywhere I go,...*

This Little Light of Mine; Text: African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Assist: Surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, go in peace to run the race and move forward in faith!

People: Thanks be to God.



OCTOBER "ALTAR FLOWERS" - THANK YOU!

The following have given monetary gifts in lieu of, or in addition to, the flowers at the altar for our Sunday and Tuesday in-person services:

October 4: in memory of parents and in honor of children and grandchildren by Gay Walter.

October 25: In honor of the Confirmands: Lauren, Anna, Lina, Preston and Cody for the affirmation of their Baptism today by Steve, Jeanette, and Leslie Bloss.



God's Love Shared Through You ...



One Life Deeper in 2020!

*Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during 2020. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper in 2020? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!***

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships 1 person at a time!

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!

SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!

REFORMATION SUNDAY:

Before the Truth Is Finished

"You will know the truth," Jesus said, "and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32).

"The truth will set you free," David Foster Wallace wrote, "but not until it's finished with you."

Before the truth is finished with us, it demands that we admit that we are not already free. We are enslaved to sin. This is the part of the truth that Luther called the law: the hard part that points out that we are controlled by our fears and desires, our self-absorption and self-doubt, our addictions and facades.

Here's the truth: You are not your Sunday best or your Facebook profile. You are broken, and enslaved by your attempts to cover it up. That can be hard to hear, but until it sinks in we are unable to be released and receive the truth of the gospel, the good news of grace.

Today we celebrate Reformation Day, and in the spirit of Martin Luther the church must be always reforming, always pointing beyond itself to God's grace. The temptation is always there to settle for so little: a cozy collective of our most presentable selves, the right side of social issues, pat answers to incomprehensible mysteries of the universe.

Jesus' invitation is to bring the mess that we're in, the mess that we are. We are called to show up as our true selves, fears and regrets and doubts and all. God can handle it. The communion of saints—that is, us, the people of God—can handle it. You are loved. You are forgiven. You are free.

The truth of God that sets us free first tears us open. Church can and must be a place where we bring our broken-open selves and encounter the healing power of a God who sees us, knows us, loves us as we are, and sets us free.

October Book of the Month: Ezekiel