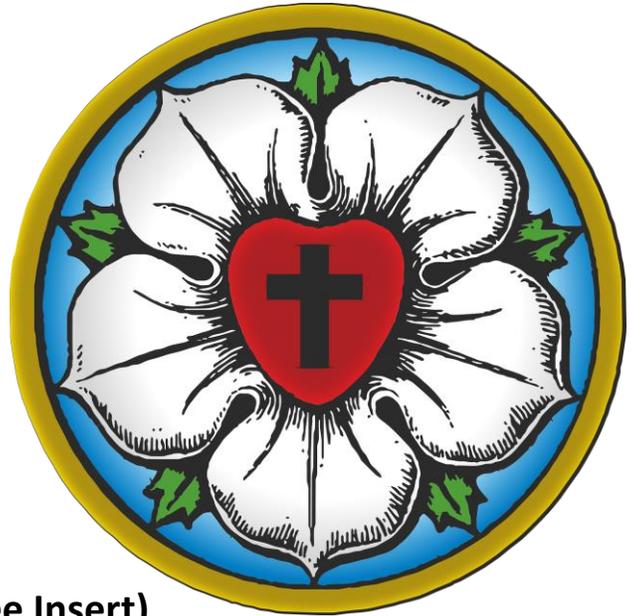


Pastor Philip Schupmann
Pastor Thomas Nicholson
Principal Mr. Brad Essig
Church: 630.907.1333
School: 630.907.1313
Web page: www.relcs.org

Worship Services
Sundays 8:00am & 10:30am
Bible Class at 9:15am



The Service

Hymn 200: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" (See Insert)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Stanza 1



Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered all to
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and



hear you.
fear you, By your teach - ings, sweet and ho - ly,



Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.

M: When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent," he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

Thesis 1

C: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

Psalm 51:1-2

M: Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally condemned, together with their teachers.

Thesis 32

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."**

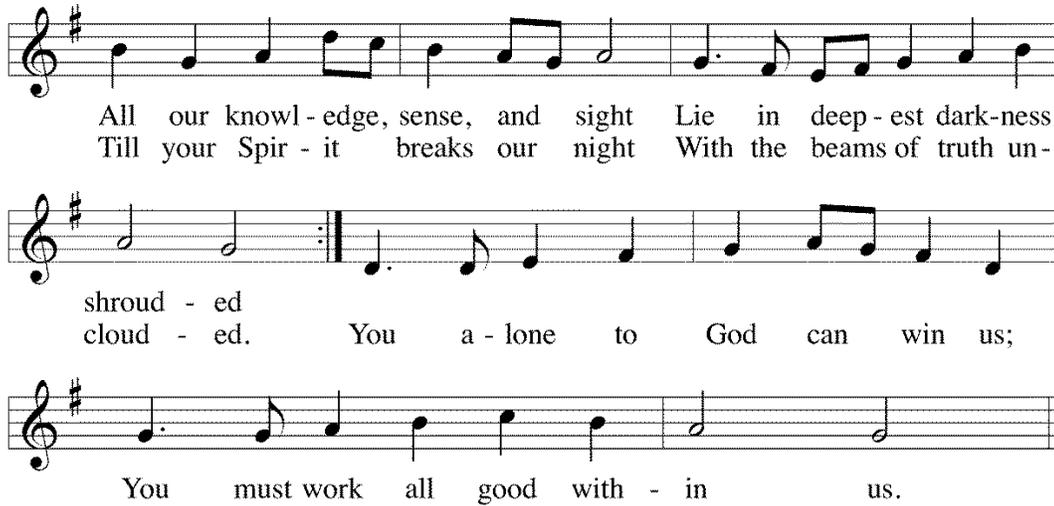
Galatians 3:10

M: Any truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without indulgence letters.

Thesis 36

- C: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases. He does not treat us as our sins deserve, or repay us according to our iniquities. For as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. *Psalm 103:2, 3, 10, 12*

Stanza 2



All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est dark - ness
Till your Spir - it breaks our night With the beams of truth un -
shroud - ed
cloud - ed. You a - lone to God can win us;
You must work all good with - in us.

- M: Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church. This is given to him by God, even without indulgence letters. *Thesis 37*
- C: **But now 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 Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.** *Romans 3:21-25*
- M: It is vain to trust in salvation by indulgence letters, even though the one selling indulgences, or even the pope, were to offer his soul as security. *Thesis 52*
- 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: The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God. *Thesis 62*
- C: **Therefore, 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*

Stanza 3

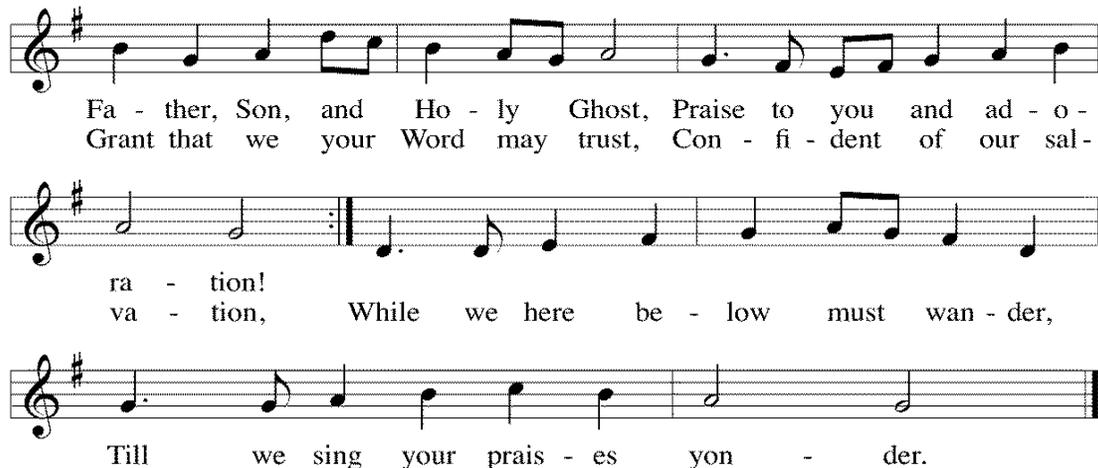


Gra-cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from God pro -
O - pen now our heart and mind; Help us by your Spir - it's
plead - ing,
Hear the cry your peo - ple rais - es;
Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.

M: Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their head, through penalties, death, and hell, and thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace. *Theses 94 & 95*

C: **Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.** *1 Peter 4:13 & 5:10-11*

Stanza 4



Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and ad - o -
Grant that we your Word may trust, Con - fi - dent of our sal -
ra - tion!
va - tion, While we here be - low must wan - der,
Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us Pray
Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the

Galatians 5:1–6

whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Gospel

¹⁶“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Matthew 10:16–23

²¹“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Luther's explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this He did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

HYMN 203: "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" (See Insert)

SERMON: Cling To God

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹² So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own

Daniel 6:10–12,16–23

signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. ¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹ Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN 293: "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage" (see Insert)

200 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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 - vour 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!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.
 Tune: EIN FESTE BURG (87 87 55 56 7) Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, For you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would seek to o - ver - throw your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
 u - ni - ty on earth. Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And to de - stroy what he has done.
 we May sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife, And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.
 Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg*, Wittenberg, 1543, alt.

THE HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION

In 1517, the church looked a whole lot different than it does today. Most people who attended church did so out of fear of God, fear of hell, or purgatory (unscriptural middle area between heaven and hell). Although God's Word was read, it was read in Latin and most people in the pews could not understand it. So, how do the masses learn about Christ? Much was learned through the descriptive artwork found in murals, sculptures, and the stained glass windows. Rather than Scripture, the people

were taught the folklore of saints and the supremacy of the pope as God's ambassador to mankind. Traditions of the church were placed on equal footing with God's Holy Scriptures. It is said that the Church in Rome chose to keep the Bible in Latin so that their authority would never be challenged: to keep the people superstitious following traditions and man-made rules and therefore the common people could be easily controlled.



What was the turning point? What happened and how did this all change? It is written, "The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6:10). Rome was in the midst of an enormous building project building the beautiful St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. More money was needed to finish this costly project and the pope decreed that indulgences would now be sold to help raise money for the Basilica. A man named Tetzel came to Germany to raise money for this project. Tetzel stretched the truth...a lot... stating that one's sins could be forgiven because they purchased this indulgence certificate, not because they repented. Shortly before, God had led Luther to understand that it is by faith we are saved and that no certificate is going to "buy" heaven. In disgust, Luther firmly believed that if Rome (the Pope) knew what Tetzel was saying, then Rome would condemn Tetzel and correct these inaccurate indulgence claims. Luther, a very learned and educated man, wanted to debate this issue with anyone who was willing to defend indulgences. On the day before a major festival drawing many people to Wittenberg, Luther pounded the 95 Thesis onto the front of the church's door (in keeping with the custom of posting local news and statutes on the church's door). No one chose to debate Luther and copies of his 95 Thesis denouncing the power of indulgences spread like wildfire all over Germany.

Today, almost 500 years later, we still celebrate this day and call October 31, 1517 Reformation Day. The power of the Gospel cannot be stopped by lies or the fear of persecution. God's Word will prevail. God carefully planned the printing press to be invented shortly before to help spread Luther's writings worldwide. Few people have impacted civilization today as much as Luther has, or rather we should say, God has chosen to use Luther as an instrument to carry out His divine will. God chooses to use us too. Every day that we live our lives of thankfulness to Him, we are serving him. Every day that we put Him first in our daily life with the decision we make in relation to our time, treasure, and talents, we are serving Him. God's Word will continue to be proclaimed until the last day. This is His promise to us and He will use politics, modern technology, natural disasters, relationships, and anything else for His use in His master plan. Nothing happens by accident. Rather, God has a plan for us and for the spreading of His Word. We are part of this plan. Let's live our lives in the confidence of knowing that God's plan for our life will trump any fear or challenge we may face. Let's share this Great News with others so that they too may understand Christ's love for us and how "it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift from God-not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Luther's Explanation of the Rose Seal

"The first thing expressed in my seal is a cross, black within the heart, to put me in mind, to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saves us. 'For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.'

Now, although the cross is black, mortified, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not change the color of the heart, does not destroy nature—i.e., does not kill, but keeps alive. 'For the just shall live by faith,' — by faith in the Savior.

But this heart is fixed upon the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal color of all angels and blessed spirits.

This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-colored ground, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed.

And around this ground-base is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and treasures, since gold is the best and most precious metal. Christ, our dear Lord, He will give grace unto eternal life."

WORD OF GOD

293 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

God's Word is our great her - i - tage And shall be ours for -
 ev - er; To spread its light from age to age Shall be our
 chief en - deav - or. Through life it guides our way; In death it
 is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, We keep its
 teach - ings pure Through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861–1925.
 Tune: REUTER (87 87 66 66 7) Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924.