



Sunday, October 25, 2026

Reformation Sunday

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Rooted in our Tradition, Open to Yours

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen. Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God ELW 504

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.**

Glory:

ELW (red book) page 139

Prayer of the Day: 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.**

Scripture:

Psalms 1 (ELW Page 142) **Matthew 22:34-46**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Built on a Rock ELW 652 vs 1,3,4

Presentation of Bibles

Thanks be to God.

Apostles' Creed

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

Amen.

Prayers of the People Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world. *A brief silence* As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. **Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day.** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. **Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air.** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. **Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated.** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering, especially Linda, Jack, Alecia, Inge, Dave & Pam, Judy, Scott, Nancy, Ted & Jacqui, Dan & Mary, Beth, Janet, Todd, Mary, Doris, Bud, Donna, Jill, Amelia, Jareth and all those we hold in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. **Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you.** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Special Music

Acclamation in G Minor Jubellation Bell Choir

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.**

Preface

ELW page 144

The Words of Institution

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The 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

ELW page 146

Post-Communion Prayer: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn:

Jesu, Jesu. Fill Us With Your Love ELW 708

Blessing & Dismissal **Thanks be to God.**