

The truth will
make you free

JOHN 8:32

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.



Grace Lutheran Church

313 S. Prospect Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 356-6232 • office@glccu.org

www.glccu.org • Pastor: Chris Repp

Welcome to Grace!

At Grace Lutheran Church, we strive to be a community of acceptance, reconciliation and hope. Following in the way of Jesus, we welcome all people regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age. God's acceptance of all compels us to stand against racism, sexism and all forms of hate and prejudice. We welcome your questions, your gifts, and your being.

Connecting People to God, One Another, and the World

We believe that God is at work in this worship service, through Word and Sacrament, to create and sustain faith in God's promises of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation in Jesus Christ, and to bless us to be blessings. We use a rich, traditional pattern of worship that dates to the early days of Christianity. We recognize that it comes with a learning curve, but we're convinced that it's worth the effort. Don't feel like you have to get everything the first time. This way of worshipping may also include postures like standing and kneeling that may not be possible or comfortable for everyone. Please know that you are welcome to do what works for you.

KEY TO THE ORDER OF SERVICE:

Regular type: spoken by a leader

Bold type: spoken by the people

Regular Italics: sung/chanted by a leader

Bold Italics: sung/chanted by the people

Small Italics: liturgical directions and information

✙ the sign of the cross may be made

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)

ACS: All Creation Sings (Purple Hymnal)

♪ Favorite Hymn request

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

- Restrooms are down the hall to the left of the entrance, opposite the elevator.
- Hand sanitizer is available on the sanctuary windowsills.
- Large print bulletins are available
- Please sign our guest book at the entrance.

As We Gather:

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.

Gathering

Prelude *Salvation Unto Us Has Come [ELW 590]* Matthias Weckmann
-- Vs 1: *Five parts; tune in pedal* (c. 1616–1674)
-- Vs 2: *Hands alone; tune with canon at the twelfth*

Welcome

The assembly stands.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

The assembly kneels or is seated.

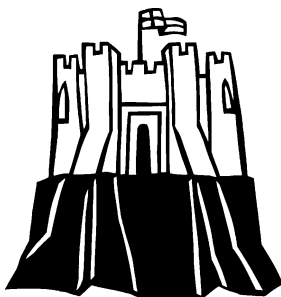
Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The assembly stands.



Gathering Hymn

A Mighty Fortress is our God

ELW 503

1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
2 No strength of ours can match his might!
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide,

a sword and shield vic - to - rious;
We would be lost, re - ject ed.
all threat - 'ning to de - vour us,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;

he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod
But now a cham - pion comes to fight,
we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand;
for God him - self fights by our side

and wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.
whom God him - self e - lect ed.
they can not o - ver - pow'r us.
with weap - ons of the Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe, sworn to work us woe,
 Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he!
 This world's prince may rage, in fierce war en - gage.
 If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,

with dread craft and might he arms him - self to fight.
 Christ Je - sus our Lord, God's on - ly Son, a - dored.
 He is doomed to fail; God's judg - ment must pre - vail!
 wrench our life a - way, they can - not win the day.

On earth he has no e - qual.
 He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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.





Canticle of Praise

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

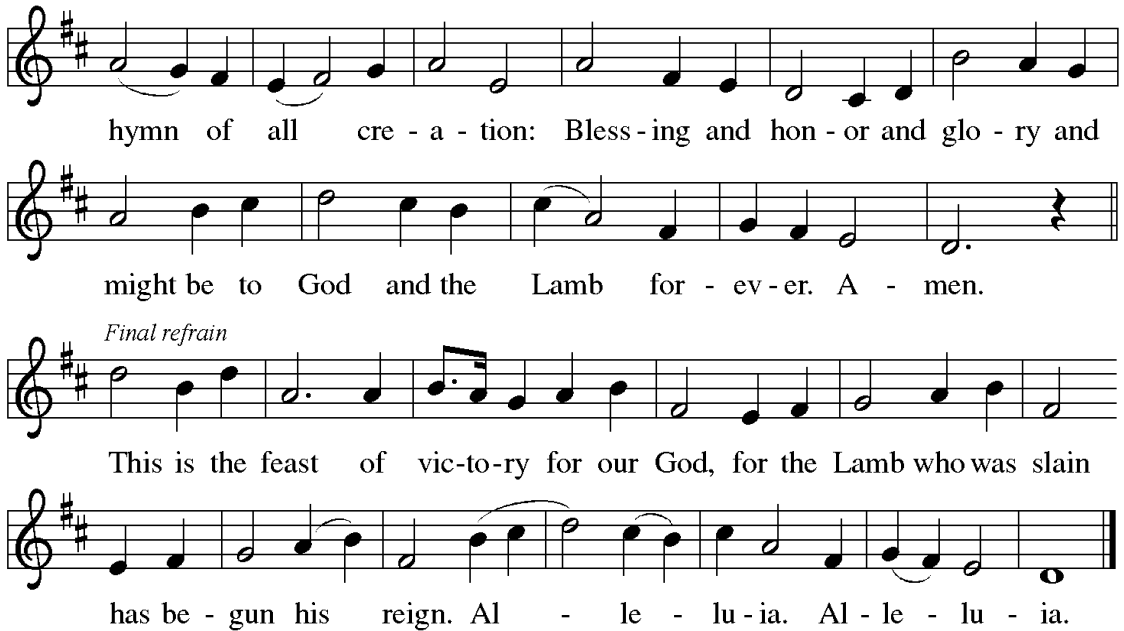
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

The assembly is seated.

Word

Children's Sermon

Pastor Chris Repp

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

³¹ 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. ³² 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. ³³ 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. ³⁴ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm: Psalm 46

Refrain (R):

The LORD of hosts is with us; the
God of Ja - cob is our strong - hold.

Tone:

³ *though 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.***
⁵ *God 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. R***
⁷ *The 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;***
⁹ *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.*
¹⁰ ***“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”***
¹¹ *The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R*

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ 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.
²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it

was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Gospel Procession

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (v1-2)

ELW 517

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
by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.

Gospel

John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The Holy Gospel, according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

³³ 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’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to

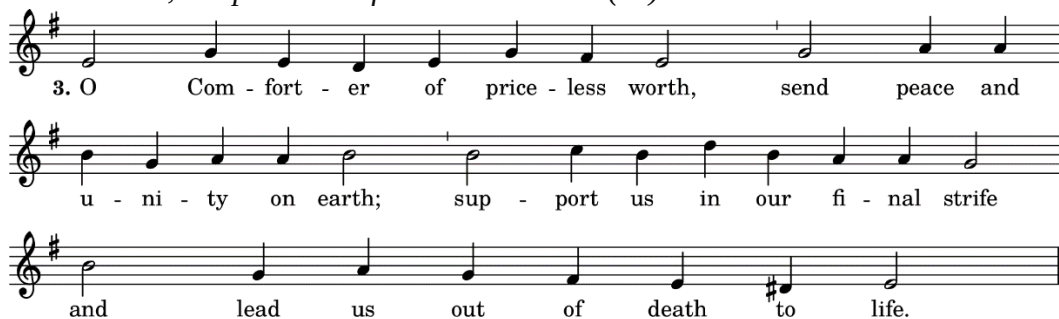
sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Recessional

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (v3)

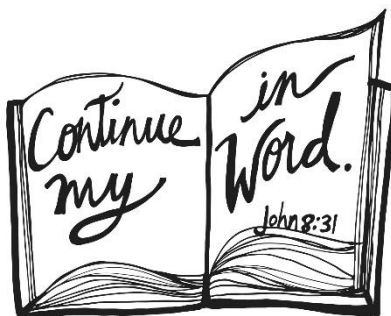
ELW 517



The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Chris Repp



The assembly stands.

Hymn of the Day

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW 665



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The assembly kneels or is seated. Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our savior.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

After the Peace, the assembly is seated.

Meal

Offering

Please place your offering in the donation box on the table in the main aisle as you leave. You may also give online at <http://glccu.org/donate> or scan the QR code with your photos app to connect to the donation page on the GLC website.



Offertory

Rejoice Today With One Accord

David Willcocks

*Rejoice today with one accord,
sing out with exultation;
rejoice and praise our mighty Lord,
whose arm hath brought salvation.
His works of love proclaim
the greatness of his name;
for he is God alone,
who hath his mercy shown:
let all his saints adore him!*

*2 When in distress to him we cried
he heard our sad complaining;
O trust in him. what'er betide,
his love is all-sustaining.
Triumphant songs of praise
to him our hearts shall raise:
now every voice shall say,
"O praise our God alway";
let all his saints adore him!*

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding. Keep our hearts and mind in the knowledge of love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The assembly stands.

Offering Verse



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.

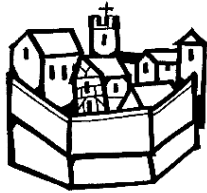


Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. + Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present for us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, forming us into his body for the sake of the world. We welcome to the Lord's table all baptized Christians. Those who are not baptized we invite to explore with us the Christian faith and consider baptism. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please hold this bulletin in your hands as a sign that you would like a blessing.

To receive communion, please join the line in the center aisle and proceed to the pastor. (Note: gluten-free wafers are available. Just ask the pastor.) After receiving the bread, proceed to your left or right to receive the wine, taking a pre-filled glass from the tray. (Grape juice is also available.) Place your used glass in the basket provided near the stairs on the side you leave.

Be Known to Us



Communion Hymns

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

ELW 645

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

The assembly stands.

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

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. 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

(Sending Of Communion)

A prayer may be said for the sending of communion to those who are absent.

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.

Sending Hymn

Christ Is the King!

ELW 662



- 1 Christ is the king! O friends, re - jice; broth - ers and sis - ters,
- 2 Oh, mag - ni - fy the Lord, and raise an - thems of joy and
- 3 O Chris - tian wom - en, Chris - tian men, all the world o - ver,
- 4 Let Love's all - rec - on - cil - ing might your scat - tered com - pa -
- 5 So shall the church at last be one; so shall God's will on



with one voice let the world know he is your choice.
ho - ly praise for Christ's brave saints of an - cient days.
seek a - gain the Way dis - ci - ples fol - lowed then.
nies u - nite in ser - vice to the God of light.
earth be done, new lamps be lit, new tasks be - gun.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Announcements

Dismissal

Go out in joy, led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Es ist das Heil

Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

Worship Support

The ministry of the church is carried out by all of its people, and Christian worship is a communal activity of the whole assembly. We give thanks to the following for their worship leadership and support today.

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Chris Repp	Livestream:	Meg Loven
Assisting Minister:	Eileen Herrstrom	Sound Technician:	Kevin Vail
Reader:	Russell Dankert	Organist:	Mike Keeley
Deacon:	Jim Anderson and Dan Lepp	Music Director:	Kyle Schrage
Greeters:	Meg & Erick Loven	Office Assistant:	Karen Maher
Ushers:	Jeff & Tina Fehrenbacher	Coffee Hour:	The Dorsey Family

✠ Chancel flowers are given by **Jim Fleming** ✠
In memory of Jo

Hymns and portions of the liturgy and artwork are reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006, and from ***Sundays and Seasons***, © 2024, by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS026105., and ONE LICENSE, License #A-725811.

Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.
