

October 25, 2026 † Reformation Sunday

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION



*if the Son makes you free,
you will be free indeed*

John 8: 36

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Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Holy Communion Setting IV
Christ Lutheran Church, Newburgh
Livestreamed from Christ Lutheran
at 9:30 am
facebook.com/christnewburgh

GATHERING

INTRODUCTION

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW pg. 116

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C **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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**





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 -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



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.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

APOSTOLIC GREETING pg. 147

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



HYMN OF PRAISE pg. 149



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



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.



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.



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

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



SERVICE OF THE WORD



FIRST LESSON: 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.

L The First Lesson is from the 31st chapter of 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. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

¹God is our ref-¹uge and strength, a very present ¹help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the ¹earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths ¹of the sea;**

³though its waters ¹rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble ¹with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-¹y of God,
the holy habitation of ¹the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall ¹not be shaken; God shall help it at the ¹break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the ¹kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth ¹melts away. R**

⁷The LORD of ¹hosts is with us; the God of Jacob ¹is our stronghold.

(continued on next page)



⁸**Come now, regard the works¹ of the LORD,
 what desolations God has brought up-¹ on the earth;**
⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in¹ all the world;
 who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the¹ shields with fire.
¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that¹ I am God;
 I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted¹ in the earth.”**
¹¹The LORD of¹ hosts is with us; the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold. **R**

SECOND LESSON: 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.



R The Second Lesson is from the 3rd chapter of the St. Paul's letter to the 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. ²⁰For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

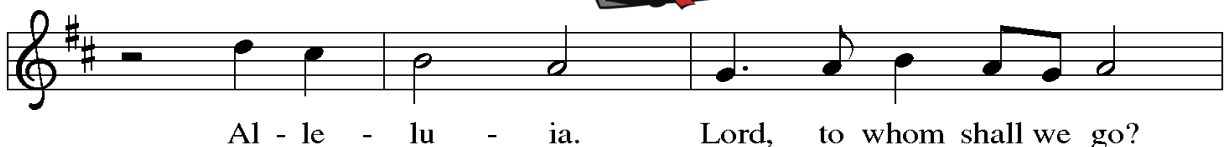
²¹But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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; ²⁶it 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.

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

R The Word of the Lord
C Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION pg. 151



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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

C **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,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’?”

³⁴Jesus 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.

³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON



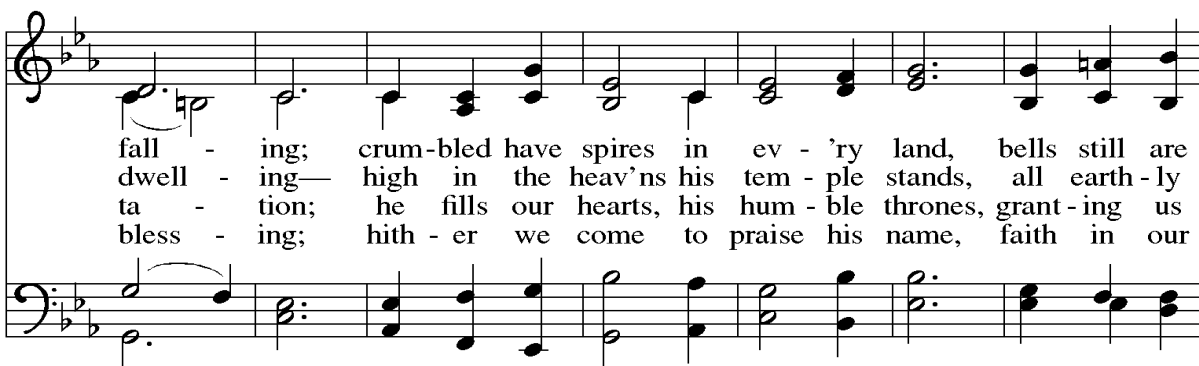
Speaking in characteristic Johannine fashion, here Jesus delivers a poetic, almost philosophical statement about his identity, the word he embodies, and the life he offers believers. The perennial search for human freedom, in Jesus’ historical context also political freedom, is illumined with the imagery of a slave and a son. It is not clear what the evangelist means when the Jews claim never to have been slaves: perhaps it is a theological statement. Recall that in John 18:38, Pilate asks what “truth” is and that in 14:6, Jesus calls himself “the truth.” For John, Jesus is the word, the truth, the son.

Every renewal of the church essentially consists in an increase of fidelity to her own calling. Undoubtedly this explains the dynamism of the movement toward unity. Christ summons the church, as she goes her pilgrim way, to that continual reformation of which she always has need, insofar as she is a human institution here on earth. Consequently, if, in various times and circumstances, there have been deficiencies in moral conduct or in church discipline, or even in the way that church teaching has been formulated—to be carefully distinguished from the deposit of faith itself—these should be set right at the opportune moment and in the proper way.

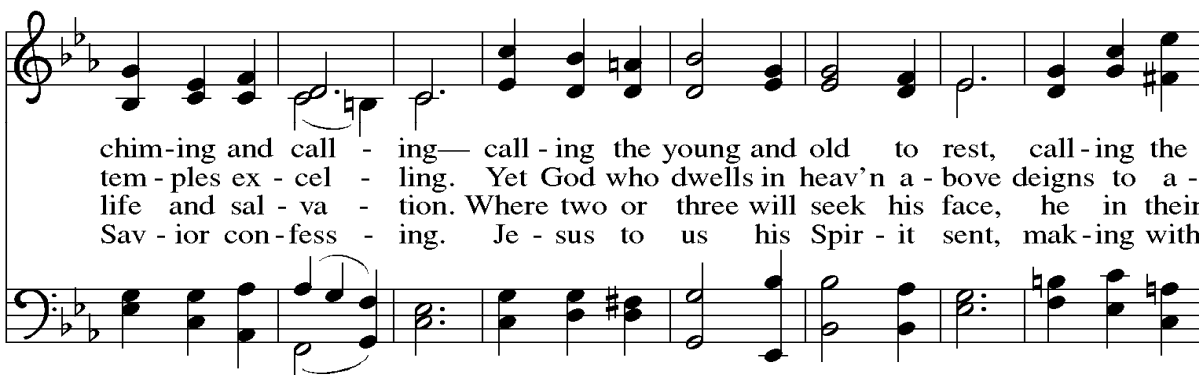
—Decree on Ecumenism, Second Vatican Council
Vatican Council II, *The Basic Sixteen Documents*, Revised Translation in Inclusive Language,
ed. Austin Flannery, OP (Northport, NY: Costello Publishing Company, 1996), 507-508.



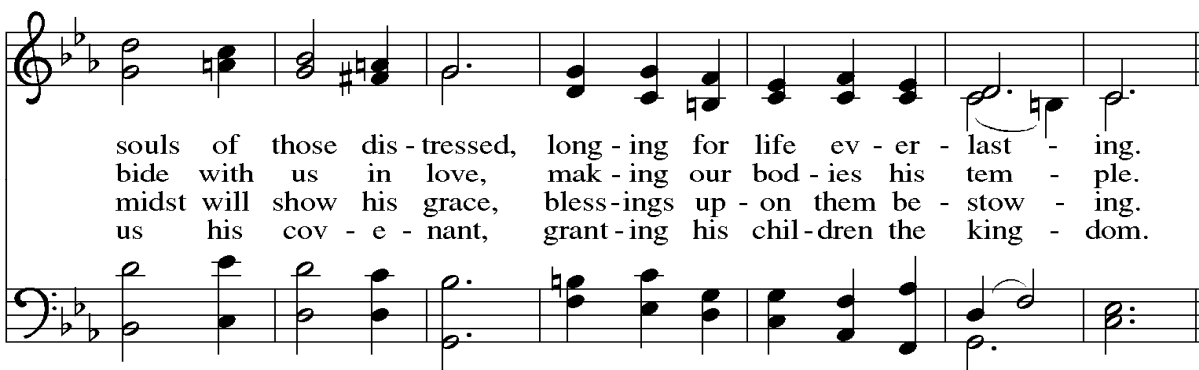
1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
 3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
 grant that, when church bells are ringing,
 many may come to hear your Word,
 who here this promise is bringing:
 "I know my own, my own know me;
 you, not the world, my face shall see;
 my peace I leave with you. Amen."

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

R Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

Silence

After each prayer petition:

R Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**



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

C **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

During the Sharing of the Peace, you may shake hands or wave or make some other greeting of peace. Please be respectful of others who may want to avoid physical touch.



CHOIR ANTHEM

AMAZING GRACE
Fern Ashworth, Director



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

ELW 692

We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our
hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we
give to you, we give to you. We lift our
voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

pg. 129

A Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

C **O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**





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.

P 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:

pg. 153

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.

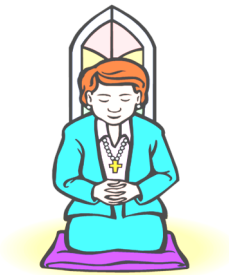
P In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.



LORD'S PRAYER pg. 154

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
 C **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.**



LAMB OF GOD pg. 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN

ELW 517

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 wrest the king-dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we
 u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you
 and keep you in his grace and peace.
 C Amen.



Preparing for Next Week

Monday (Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647;
 Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters) Psalm 119: 41-48
Tuesday James 2: 14-26.
Wednesday (Simon and Jude, Apostles) Proverbs 16: 1-20.
Thursday Psalm 43. **Friday** 2 Peter 2: 1-3.
Saturday (Reformation Day) John 8: 31-36.
All Saints Day
 Revelation 7: 9-17; Psalm 34: 1-10, 22;
 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

ELW 207



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER pg. 136



A Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P 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.

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

C Amen.



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

DISMISSAL pg. 137

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



October 25, 2026 † Reformation Sunday

This is a Sunday packed with beautiful images, deep-seeded ideas, and a rich history. For life-long Lutherans, these things can provoke a sense of pride in our denomination, but Reformation Sunday is not “Lutheran Pride Day.” Instead it is a day focused on knowing God truthfully and, in light of God’s unbelievable grace, understanding who we are as faithful children of God.

Luther spent a great deal of time trying to know who God was and to find ways of expressing what he came to know and believe so that others would know God too. He used coarse language, drank beer, and wrote hymns using tunes people knew and recognized. When he wrote his catechism he used language his small son could understand. He even translated the Bible into the language people spoke. Truth about God and our faith, as complex as it is, should be something we can grasp and wrestle with.

Reformation Sunday is certainly a festival day where we celebrate and remember our history, but it should also be a day to reexamine our faith. Part of that is recognizing the truth about our inadequacies, our failings, and our sinfulness. The law is like a mirror in a well-lit room, showing us who we are with every flaw and wrinkle. But God doesn’t look at us in that mirror. God shines a new light on us, forgiving and forgetting our iniquities and sins.

The message of Reformation Sunday is God’s love for us. It is a love that frees us and redefines us as people of God and as members of the whole body of Christ. In God’s eyes, we are beautiful.

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Carl Geiselhart, Organist
Deacon Irma Bahr-Madrid, Communion Assistant
Volunteer, Usher
Dan Madrid, Cantor
Deacon Carol Giangrasso, Reader
Deacon Irma Bahr-Madrid, Children’s Message
the Rev. Dr. Mary Lou Baumgartner, Presiding and Preaching



**All worship services livestreaming at
facebook.com/christnewburgh**

**Worship with Holy Communion
Each Sunday at 9:30 am**