

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 656 A Mighty Fortress



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
2 With might of ours can naught be done,
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,



A trust - y shield and weap - on;
Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
All ea - ger to de - vour us,



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
But for us fights the val - iant One,
We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;



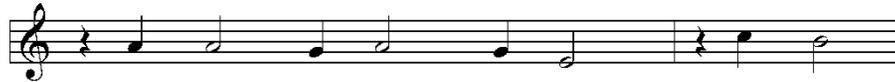
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.



The old e - vil foe Now means
Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
as he will, He can harm us none.



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
And there's none oth - er God; He holds
He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -



is not his e - qual.
the field for - ev - er.
tle word can fell him.

4 The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

INVOCATION

Pastor: *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Congr: Amen.

THE OPENING

Pastor: *God is our refuge and strength,*

Congr: a very present help in trouble.

Pastor: *Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,*

Congr: though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.

Pastor: *though its waters roar and foam,*

Congr: though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: *"Confession has two parts.*

Congr: First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven."

(Small Catechism, Confession)

Pastor: *Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.*

Congr: O Lord, our God, we confess that during times in our lives when it feels as though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the sea, we have not looked to You as our fortress and strength. Too often we look to ourselves, not fearing, loving, and trusting in You above all things. We humbly ask that for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: *“For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*
(Romans 3:22b-24)

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congr: Amen.

PSALM 46 (chanted by half verse)

¹God is our refuge and strength,*
a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,*
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

³though its waters roar and foam,*
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,*
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;*
God will help her when morning dawns.

⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;*
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD,*
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;*
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God.*
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;*
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
And to the Holy | Spirit;
As it was in the beginning,*
Is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

THE SALUTATION

Pastor: *The Lord be with you.*

Congr: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: *Let us pray. Mighty God, our Rock, keep us ever mindful that even in the midst of a world where evidence of sin surrounds us, You are a mighty fortress, that we might be encouraged and remain steadfast in Your truth and strength; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Congr: Amen.

THE FIRST READING Revelation 14:6-7

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

CHOIR ANTHEM “Christ Is Our Rock”

THE EPISTLE Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. ⁴

This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

(Congregation please rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel)

The Gospel – Matthew 11:12-19

Congr: "Glory be to Thee, O Lord!"

From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

Congr: "Praise be to Thee, O Christ!"

OUR LUTHERAN CONFESSION OF FAITH (as written by Dr. Martin Luther)

Congr: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: *What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.*

Congr: And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: *What does this mean? 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, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, 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, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.*

Congr: I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastor: *What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.*

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

THE SERMON HYMN 578 Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



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



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

© 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012738.
 Public domain

THE SERMON Text – Matthew 11
 Theme – “A Defining Moment”

OFFERTORY RESPONSE 582 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

God's Word is our great heritage
 And shall I be ours forever;
 To spread its light from age to age
 Shall be our chief endeavor.
 Through life it guides our way,
 In death it is our stay.
 Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
 We keep its teachings pure
 Throughout all generations.

THE GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS ORGAN OFFERTORY

THE PRAYERS

THE CLOSING LITANY

Pastor: *May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us.*

Congr: **That your ways, O Lord, may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.**

Pastor: *May the people praise you, O God, may all the people praise you.*

Congr: **May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the people justly and guide the nations of the earth.**

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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: *Let us pray Luther's Morning Prayer:*

Congr: **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: *So if the Son sets you free,*

Congr: **You will be free indeed!** (John 8:36)

Pastor: *The Lord bless you and keep you.*

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Congr: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN 578 Thy Strong Word

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias,
Alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE "A Mighty Fortress"

arr. Wallert