

Area Reformation Service



November 5, 2017



Welcome

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) churches of the Tucson area are pleased that you have joined us for this special worship service. If you are a guest and not a member of one of these churches, please stop by the welcome table in the entryway for more information about us!

Reformation 500

We are gathering together for this worship service as a part of our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation. This joyful occasion provides a wonderful opportunity to worship God in a larger setting than our regular worship services. It also allows us to make use of the skills and talents of many in our churches to play and prepare music together that would be difficult for each of the congregations to do on their own.

The 95 Theses

The event that is generally recognized as the start of the Lutheran Reformation occurred on October 31, 1517. On that day, Luther posted his 95 Theses concerning indulgences on the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church. Indulgences were sold in many areas of the Holy Roman Empire (including much of present-day Germany) with the promise that they would forgive the temporal punishment of sin. Many people bought indulgences believing that this was the best way to deal with their sins and to satisfy God the angry judge.

Luther felt that many sellers of indulgences were not being careful enough about what they preached and taught. He assumed, incorrectly, that the Pope and other church leaders were unaware of these abuses.

Luther eventually realized that the sale of indulgences was just a symptom of a much deeper problem in the Roman Catholic Church, one that obscured God's grace, his undeserved love for people. But in 1517, Luther still viewed himself as a faithful Roman Catholic, loyal to the Pope and to the doctrine he had learned as he grew up. The 95 Theses that Luther posted, therefore, contain some examples of false teaching, including a belief in purgatory.

At the same time, Luther's understanding of the Scripture had already led him to some conclusions about the importance of true repentance and faith, realizations that would help him rescue the truth of the Bible from the errors that had been imposed on it. For this reason, we will speak several of the individual theses during the confession and absolution portion of our service this morning.

Holy Communion

Our service includes the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. In keeping with the Bible's teachings and historic practice, WELS churches practice "member communion," also known as close communion or closed communion. Any guests at our service who are not members of a WELS church are invited to learn more about both the sacrament and our practice from any of the pastors, but are asked to kindly refrain from communing at this time.

Offering

Our guests should also not feel compelled to give an offering. The members of each of our churches have indicated a desire to financially support the work of the churches. Please note that offerings in envelopes will be delivered to the church marked on the envelope (blank envelopes are available from the ushers if needed). Loose offerings will be divided among the congregations.

Children's Choir

The children singing with the choir this morning are asked to sit with their families during the concert. Please assemble at the front of the auditorium during the final piece. Children will return to their families after their song is done.

*Please see additional notes about the service in the margins
and more announcements on the back pages.*

Reformation Concert

*Please enter and exit the auditorium as necessary during the concert;
however please refrain from talking.*

Thy Strong Word..... Piano Solo
Arranged by Sandra Eithun Teri Guenther

Son of God, Eternal SaviorFlute/Piano Duet
Arranged by Valerie Floeter Nicole McNamara, Elaine Goldie

O God, Our Help in Ages Past Piano Duet
Arranged by John Carter Timothy and Katie Patoka

A Mighty Fortress..... Handbell Choir
Arranged by John Behnke Beth Kassulke, Director

Thy Word Vocal Duet
Arranged by Jack Schrader Linda Kirkpatrick, Jessica Seiltz; Piano: Leah Clark

Rock of Ages Violin Duet
Tune by Thomas Hastings Marsha Turner, Kaleb Peek; Piano: Jessica Seiltz

Keep Us Steadfast—A Martin Luther Medley..... Piano Solo
Arranged by Adele Kapellusch Adele Kapellusch

The Church's One FoundationWoodwind Ensemble
Arranged by Doris Gazda, Larry Clark Grace Lutheran Church

A Mighty Fortress Is Our GodWoodwind Ensemble
Arranged by Doris Gazda, Larry Clark Grace Lutheran Church

The Church's One Foundation Piano Solo
Arranged by Victor Labenske Kathy Parra

The Truth Will Make You Free..... Choir
By Anne Krentz Organ Grace Lutheran Church; Director: Teri Guenther

Built on the Rock..... Trumpet/Piano Duet
Arranged by Larry Shackley Josh Spivey, Paula Schmugge

Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.

-Martin Luther

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

In loving memory of Fay Blersch

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Tr. composite

EIN FESTE BURG (Rhythmic)
Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Setting by Jeffrey Blersch

*This hymn,
written by
Martin Luther,
is a paraphrase
of Psalm 46.*

Please stand

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The melody is a rhythmic setting of the hymn. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The score includes a final double bar line at the end of the last line of music.

All 1 A might - y for - tress is _____ our God, A trust - y
All 2 With might of ours can naught _____ be done, Soon were our
Choir 3 Though dev - ils all the world _____ should fill, All ea - ger
All 4 The Word they still shall let _____ re - main Nor an - y

shield and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry
loss ef - fect - ed; But for us fights the val - iant
to de - vour _____ us, We trem - ble not, we fear _____ no
thanks have for _____ it; He's by our side up - on _____ the

need That hath us now o'er - take - en. The
One, Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed. Ask
ill; They shall not o - ver - pow'r _____ us. This
plain With His good gifts and Spir - it. And

old _____ e - vil foe Now means dead - ly
ye, _____ Who _____ is this? Je - sus Christ it
world's _____ prince _____ may still Scowl fierce as he
take _____ they _____ our life, Goods, fame, child, and

woe; Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in
is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord, And there's none oth - er
will, He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is
wife, Though these all be gone, Our vic - t'ry has been

fight; On earth is not his e - qual.
God; He holds the field for - ev - er.
done; One lit - tle word can fell _____ him. *Interlude*
won; The King - dom ours re - main - eth.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Today we celebrate that God has preserved for us the pure teaching of his Word. We remember the bold confessions and active faith of Martin Luther and others through whom God accomplished many great things. We commemorate the first clear movements away from false teaching and toward a pure proclamation of the gospel in the posting of the 95 Theses. We acknowledge that God's Word has not changed and that in a clear confession of it we are connected to faithful believers of all time and in all places. And we come in humble repentance, as our Lord Jesus himself directs his followers.

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

Thesis 1

M: Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Romans 3:20

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

Thesis 32

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

Thesis 36

C: **Any true Christian, whether living or dead, participates in all the blessings of Christ and the church; and this is granted him by God, even without indulgence letters.**

Thesis 37

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8-9

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us therefore confess our sins.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature, and I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior paid for my sins with his holy life and innocent death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

ABSOLUTION

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Thesis 94

Thesis 95

Psalm 118:24

- M: By the grace of God may we be built up in faith to battle temptation, to stand firm against adversity, and to boldly confess our faith.
Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell.
- C: **And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace.**

- M: This is the day the Lord has made;
C: **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, through the preaching of your servants, the blessed Reformers, you caused the light of the gospel to shine forth. Grant that we may faithfully defend it against all enemies and joyfully proclaim it to the salvation of people everywhere to the glory of your holy name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C: **Amen.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.

Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth his temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.

We are God's house of living stones,
Built for his own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of his wondrous salvation.
Were we but two his name to tell,
Yet he would deign with us to dwell
With all his grace and his favor.

Built on the Rock
Arr. by Matthew Machemer

*Danish hymn-writer
Nikolai Grundtvig
likely witnessed the
destruction of
Copenhagen's
medieval Church of
Our Lady during the
Napoleonic Wars,
which may have led
him to use such
imagery in this
hymn. His words
remind us that
Christ's Church is
not bound to a
physical building.
Rather, the Church
is made up of "living
stones" built on the
foundation of
Jesus Christ.
1 Peter 2:4-5: As you
come to him, the
living Stone—
rejected by humans
but chosen by God
and precious to
him—you also, like
living stones, are
being built into a
spiritual house to be
a holy priesthood,
offering spiritual
sacrifices acceptable
to God through
Jesus Christ.*

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-7 (NIV 2011)

But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you

are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

God has been a mighty fortress for his people throughout history. To the Old Testament Israelites he sent precious promises like these through his prophet Isaiah. Because God has made them his people, he will always be there to protect them.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 46

God Is Our Refuge and Strength

Choir: Refrain

Congregation: Refrain

John A. Behnke



Choir: *We will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the sea,
Though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
The holy place where the Most High dwells.*

Congregation: Refrain

Choir: *Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts.
The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Congregation: Refrain

Choir: *He makes wars cease, He breaks the bow and burns the shields with fire.
Be still, be still, be still and know that I am God.
The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Congregation: Refrain

Choir: *God is our refuge and our strength, our only help in trouble.*

*Though he didn't
find strength and
support in his
earthly companions,
the Apostle Paul
knew that God was
his refuge and
strength.*

SECOND LESSON

Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Sung by the choir

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 8:31-32

*Alleluia! If you continue in my Word, you are truly my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. Alleluia!*

Please stand

*Jesus doesn't pray
for his disciples to
be taken from the
world, but for them
to be protected by
God their mighty
fortress.*

GOSPEL

John 17:6-19 (NIV 2011)

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with

them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word 203

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: Klug, *Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg*, Wittenberg, 1543, alt.

ERHALT UNS, HERR
LM

Martin Luther most likely wrote this hymn in 1541 for the boys' choir to sing during a special service of prayer against the Turks. Throughout this era, the Muslim Ottoman (Turkish) Empire was threatening the European Kingdoms.

SERMON

Psalm 46 "It's About Something"

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his

voice, the earth melts. The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

*We join in
confessing our
Christian faith using
the words of
Luther's explanation
to the Apostles'
Creed. This
explanation was
published in
Luther's Small
Catechism in 1529.*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

M: I believe that God created me and all that exists,
C: **and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.**

M: And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life.

C: **God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.**

M: All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it.

C: **For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.**

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

C: **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,**

M: not with gold or silver

C: **but with his holy precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

M: All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom,

C: **and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.**

M: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

C: **But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

M: 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.

C: **In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.**

M: On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead

C: **and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

M: This is most certainly true.

C: **This is most certainly true.**

OFFERING

The offering collected in our service today will be used in support of each of the participating WELS congregations. To be sure that your offering is delivered to your church, please use your church offering envelope or mark the name of your church on any envelope you use. Checks may be made payable to your congregation. Loose offerings will be divided among the churches.

If you would like to further support the joint work of our Saguario Circuit, an opportunity to do so will be provided at the meal that follows our service this morning. Saguario Circuit offerings may be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

A Mighty Fortress
Arranged by Brant Adams

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty, eternal God! Out of the depths we call to you. The world opens its mouth to swallow your church, and our faith in you is too small to confront its lures and attractions!

C: We confess the weakness of our sinful flesh. Satan deceives us daily. If we are to depend upon any strength from ourselves, all is lost. Help us, we beg, to withstand the ungodly way of life that the world has to offer.

M: The work is not ours, O God, but yours. O Sovereign Lord and Creator, we have no way to satisfy your righteousness, nothing to contest the great Deceiver's earthly power, nothing to mute its false attractions, nothing to uproot the rule of our sinful flesh.

C: We would gladly pass our days in happiness and peace in an age awash with iniquity. Hear us, heavenly Father, for the cause is yours. Yes, Creator of all that is, your cause is righteous and everlasting. Vindicate your name among the nations!

M: O all-seeing Lord, have mercy on your church. You understand our plight. We thank you for sending a messenger of peace to correct our lives. This One is your Son, Jesus the Christ, the incarnate Savior, who saves us from calamities that plague your church.

C: You have chosen us to do your work. Therefore, O God, accomplish it by your will. Stand by your church each day in the name of Jesus, who is our shelter and shield, our mighty fortress. Through the strength of the Holy Spirit, such faith works joy and peace and willingness to serve a world in need.

This prayer is based on the one Luther prayed at the Diet of Worms in 1521. There he made a bold confession in the face of authorities in the church and the government. A version of this prayer was used in a Reformation service at the 2017 WELS Worship Conference.

M: We are even ready to lay down our lives for this cause, as were your servants Martin Luther and his fellow Reformers and Confessors, who forcefully stormed the kingdom of heaven to restore the gospel of your righteousness to its central place in Christian life.

C: The cause is holy. Though this world is filled with devils and though our bodies perish in persecution, your Word and your Spirit still remain. The church always needs reform as its message encounters the false and the frivolous. But the Word of God stands firm forever.

M: In the confidence of faith, gracious Lord, bless our efforts to spread the gospel of the glory and grace of God throughout the world to the joy and edifying of all who hear and believe and for your glory and our good.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who in blessing his saints of the past has given us glorious assurance and hope that, following their example of faith, we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us, and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of 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. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Music by Kermit Moldenhauer. © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House.

This ancient worship song, translated and set to more modern music, is based on songs of praise recorded in Isaiah 6 and Psalm 118.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

Music by Kermit Moldenhauer. © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House.

*Should you require
gluten-free wafers
or grape juice,
please ask the usher
for a card indicating
that, which will
assist the minister
serving you. As
necessary, you may
remain seated and
have the ministers
serve you in your
row. In that case,
please ask for a blue
card so the
ministers may
recognize your
request.*

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

This morning we celebrate Holy Communion by "continuous distribution." An usher will dismiss a row at a time. Please proceed to the back of the auditorium and to the hallway through the aisle indicated by the usher. Pause to receive the wafer from the minister who speaks the words, "The body of Christ, given for you." Pause to take a cup from the minister who speaks the words, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." You may say, "Amen" to acknowledge the ministers' words and the real presence of our Lord's body and blood. Follow the direction of the usher to return to the auditorium and to your seat by the indicated aisle on the other side of your row.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

204

O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word

1 O God, our Lord, Your ho - ly Word Was long a
 2 Sal - va - tion true By faith in you— That is your
 3 Lord, you a - lone This work have done By your free
 4 Since you are mine, My Lord di - vine, Death holds no

hid - den trea - sure Till to its place It
 gos - pel's preach - ing, The heart and core Of
 grace and fa - vor. All who be - lieve Will
 dread - ful ter - rors; Your pre - cious blood, My

was by grace Re - stored in full - est mea - sure.
 Bi - ble lore In all its sa - cred teach - ing.
 grace re - ceive Through Je - sus Christ, our Sav - ior.
 high - est good, Has blot - ted out my er - rors.

For this to - day Our thanks we say And
 In Christ we must Put all our trust, Not
 And though the foe Would o - ver - throw Your
 My thanks to you— Your Word is true! Ful -

glad - ly glo - ri - fy you. Your mer - cy show And
 in our deeds or la - bor; With con - science pure And
 Word with grim en - deav - or, All he has wrought Must
 fill your prom - ise ev - er, And mer - cy give While

grace be - stow On all who still de - ny you.
 heart se - cure Love you, Lord, and our neigh - bor.
 come to naught— Your Word will stand for - ev - er!
 here I live And heav'n - ly bliss for - ev - er.

This hymn first appeared in hymnals in the late 1520's and is often attributed to the poet Arnag. Arnag was the godson of Fredrick the Wise and helped the spread of the Lutheran Reformation throughout Germany. Of this hymn the German scholar Wilhelm Nelle wrote, "Like Luther's Lord, Keep Us Steadfast this hymn was forbidden by the authorities, pastors were deposed from office for having it sung, in short, it has a history of battle and victory as much as the best hymns of Luther."

Text: *Enchiridion . . . zum Schwartzten Horn*, Erfurt, 1527, abr.; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.
 Tune: O HERRE GOTT, DEIN GÖTTLICH WORT (447 447 D Iambic) *Enchiridion . . . zum Schwartzten Horn*, Erfurt, 1527.

English translation © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Chief of Sinners Though I Be
Arranged by Valerie Floeter

CHOIR ANTHEM

Speak, O Lord
Arranged by John Ferguson

*Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory.*

*Teach us, Lord, full obedience, Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.*

*Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises, and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til your Church is built and the earth is filled with your glory.*

Words and Music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. © 2006 Thankyou Music; admin. Capitol CMG Publishing.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage
Arranged by Sandra Eithun

A Mighty Fortress
Arranged by Greg Bottomley

At the end of the Distribution:

M: The true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith to life everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

You are invited to sing this hymn a capella in four-part harmony with the choir.

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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: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863-1924

REUTER
87 87 66 66 7

In celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Reformation, Nikolai Grundtvig translated Luther's A Mighty Fortress into Danish, and added these words as a fifth stanza.

This hymn tune (REUTER) was written by Professor Friedrich O. Reuter of Dr. Martin Luther College to be used with the hymn Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head, which was originally sung to the tune EIN FESTE BURG (A Mighty Fortress). His new version of that hymn opened the worship service for the 400th Anniversary Celebration of the Reformation on September 30, 1917 held at Dr. Martin Luther College.

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Service Participants

Presiding Minister

Rev. David Parsons
Holy Cross, Tucson, AZ

Preacher

Professor Mark Paustian
Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN

Assisting Ministers

Rev. Alan Eckert
Shepherd of the Hills, Tucson, AZ

Rev. Ryan Heiman
Grace, Sahuarita, AZ

Rev. Nathan Kassulke
Grace, Tucson, AZ

Rev. Ronald Koehler
Grace, Tucson, AZ

Rev. Matthew Langebartels
Redeemer, Tucson, AZ

Rev. Adam Mueller
Redeemer, Tucson, AZ

Rev. Timothy Patoka
Grace, Tucson, AZ

Rev. Jason Schmidt
Shepherd of the Hills, Tucson, AZ

Organists

Shannon Schmidt
Shepherd of the Hills

Tina Christianson
Grace

Directors

Paula Schmugge
Adult Choir

Jessica Seiltz
Children's Choir

Missy Wiechmann
Brass

Beth Kassulke
Handbells

Instrumentalists

Violin

Maya Parra
Kaleb Peek
Dorothy Randolph
Marsha Turner

Trumpet

Nathan Kassulke
Ronald Koehler
Jason Schmidt
Josh Spivey

Trombone

Ernie Piper
Joseph Turner

French Horn

Cora Stuhr

Percussion/Timpani

Danny Koehler
Paula Schmugge

Flute

Lakeisha Johnson-Ganster
Nicole McNamara
Katie Patoka
Alicia Shanklin

Clarinet

Elaine Goldie
Beth Kassulke
Jessica Seiltz
Missy Wiechmann

Piano

Teri Guenther
Hannah Langebartels
Kathy Parra
Paula Schmugge
Jessica Seiltz
Mary Watson

Guest Preacher

Dr. Mark Paustian is a professor of communication, biblical Hebrew, and apologetics at Martin Luther College, our WELS college of ministry in New Ulm, Minnesota. A graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, he has served as an outreach exploratory pastor and is the author of *Prepared to Answer* and *MORE Prepared to Answer*. He holds a Doctorate Degree in Communication from Regent University.

Fellowship Lunch

At the completion of the service, please dismiss yourself from the auditorium at your leisure. We hope you can join us for a Reformation Fellowship Lunch in the cafeteria immediately following the service. The cafeteria building is located to the southeast of the auditorium. Seating is available both inside and outside.

Service Video

We are working to have a good recording of this service that will be made available online in the coming days. If you would like a copy of the service, please request one from Grace's Church Office at 520-623-6633 or office@GraceLutheranSAZ.org.

The Tucson area WELS churches would like to express their thanks to the many people involved in making this Reformation 500 service and celebration possible—those who served as choir members, ushers, and parking lot attendants; those who helped to move and set-up equipment, prepare communion, and prepare lunch; and those that helped or encouraged in many other ways. We would like to especially acknowledge the efforts of the following individuals:

Worship Service Planning

Rev. Nathan Kassulke, *Saguaro Circuit Pastor*

Beth Kassulke, *Music Coordinator, Grace*

Paula Schmugge, *Music Coordinator, Shepherd of the Hills*

Jessica Seiltz, *Music Coordinator, Redeemer*

Promotional Material Design

Lisa Toben

Worship Folder Layout

Cora Stuhr, *Administrative Assistant, Grace*

Fellowship Lunch Coordinator

Joel Rhoads

We would also like to express our thanks and appreciation to the staff at Tucson Magnet High School and the Tucson Unified School District for allowing us to use their facilities today and for working closely with us to make this celebration possible.



All glory be to God alone,
Forevermore the highest one,
Who did our sinful race befriend
And grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may his good will
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

-Martin Luther

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) is a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

For more information about our synod and what we believe visit: www.wels.net