

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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Reformation Sunday

Welcome in Jesus' name.

We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



Lead Pastor Lisa Meshke, pastorlisaanne@gmail.com

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Secretary, Sue Wiener

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Prelude/Procession/Bells

Welcome and Announcements

L: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ☩ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

L: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

L: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" ELW #504**

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

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***Apostolic 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.**

***Kyrie:**

ELW, Setting 3, Page 138

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have Mercy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.
For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.

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***Hymn of Praise: "Glory to God"**

ELW, Setting 3, Page 139-140

Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our
prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most high,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Augsburg Fortress. #SB109327

***The Prayer of the Day:**

Almighty God, gracious Lord, **we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to

Though the Earth Shall Change



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, and Tom Witt, b. 1957, based on Psalm 46

Music: WE WILL NOT FEAR, Tom Witt

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Responsive Psalm Reading:

Psalm 46

L: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

C: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

L: though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

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

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

C: The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

L: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

C: Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

L: 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.

C: “Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

L: The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Scripture Reading:

Romans 3:19-28

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 being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in 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 show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children’s Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:** “Alleluia”

ELW, Setting 3, Page 142

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the works of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

***Holy Gospel:**

John 8:31-36

L: The Holy Gospel according to the Book of John.

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; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They 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. ³⁵The 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."

L: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message: Reformation Skit

***Hymn:**

"Built on a Rock"

ELW #652

1 Built on a 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, calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.

2 Surely, in temples made with hands God the Most High is not dwelling—
high in the heav'ns his temple stands, all earthly temples excelling.
Yet God who dwells in heav'n above deigns to abide with us in love,
making our bodies his temple.

3 Christ builds a house of living stones: we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones, granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face, he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.

4 Yet in this house, an earthly frame, Jesus the children is blessing;
hither we come to praise his name, faith in our Savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit sent, making with us his covenant,
granting his children the kingdom.

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."

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress #SB109327.

***Apostles' Creed:**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Prayers of the People:**

L: God of grace, C: Hear our prayer.

***Peace:**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

Offering

***Offertory Prayer:**

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Amen.

***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.

***Benediction:**

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: "The Church of Christ, in Every Age" ELW #729 (vs. 1-4)**

1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

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***Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Share the harvest. **C:** Thanks be to God.

Thank you to Sue Jensen and Kyle Quenemoen for their contribution to our skits.

