

October 29, 2023
Reformation



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
513.677.9357 abidingword.com

Pastor -Troy Jacobs 937.503.3333 welstroyjacobs@yahoo.com

Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Please join us for a potluck after the service. There is no Sunday School or Bible Class today.

SERIES THEME - *THE TIME IN BETWEEN*

In the great timeline of human history, there are only two ultimately significant points: the first time Christ came to our world to win salvation by his life, death, and resurrection; and the second time Christ will come to consummate his everlasting kingdom. We live in the time in between those two points. It is a time of tension. We know that peace and perfection are ours already because of what Jesus did the first time he came. Yet we do not enjoy a peaceful and perfect existence now already. We will not know such a life until Christ comes again. And so we wait and watch, living in the time in between. As the church year draws to a close, Scripture points us toward the end of time when Christ will come again. Until then Christ teaches us how to live in the time in between.

Reformation (observed) – A Time for Steadfast Faith

All Saints' Day (observed) – A Time to Focus on Future Glory

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – A Time for Watchfulness

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – A Time for Faithful Service

Last Sunday of the Church Year – A Time to Yearn for the End

THEME OF THE DAY - A TIME FOR STEADFAST FAITH

Jesus told his followers, “You will be hated by everyone because of me” (Matthew 10:22). Satan and the world hate Christ and anyone who confesses faith in Christ. So, the time in between Christ’s first and second coming is going to be perilous for believers. A good example—Martin Luther. All that priest wanted was to share the pure gospel with the world. For trying to do that, both political and religious leaders attempted to end his life. The Festival of the Reformation emphasizes the true Church’s unflinching reliance on the Word of God and unflinching testimony to that Word even in the face of harsh persecution. Today we pray that the Lord would keep us steadfast in the faith and give us the peace of knowing that our lives are safe in his hands.

Stand

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

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

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 confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and 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 innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

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.**

DIALOGUE FOR REFORMATION

In the words spoken by the minister, Dr. Luther remembered his “tower experience” in which he came to understand the central teaching of the Scriptures.

M: In the meantime in the same year (1519) I had begun again to lecture on the Psalter, believing that with my classroom experience in lecturing on the Psalms and the Letters of Paul to the Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews, I was now better prepared.

C: **The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

M: All the while I was absorbed with the passionate desire to get better acquainted with the author of Romans. Not that I did not succeed, as I had resolved, in penetrating more deeply into the subject in my investigation, but I stumbled over the words concerning “the righteousness of God revealed in the gospel.” For the concept of God’s righteousness was repulsive to me, as I was accustomed to interpret it according to scholastic philosophy, namely as the “formal or active” righteousness, in which God proves himself righteous in that he punishes the sinner as an unrighteous person.

C: **In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness; turn your ear to me and save me.**

M: After days and nights of wrestling with the problem, God finally took pity on me, so that I was able to comprehend the inner connection between the two expressions, “the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel” and “the just shall live by faith.”

C: **But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ.**

M: Then I began to comprehend the righteousness of God through which the righteous are saved by God's grace, namely, through faith; that the righteousness of God which is revealed through the gospel was to be understood in a passive sense in which God through mercy justifies man by faith, as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." Now I felt exactly as though I had been born again, and I believed that I had entered Paradise through widely opened doors.

C: **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

M: I then went through the Holy Scriptures as far as I could recall them from memory, and I found in other parts the same sense: the "work of God" is that which he works in us, the "strength of God" is that through which he makes us strong, the "wisdom of God" that through which he makes us wise, and so the "power of God," the "blessing of God," and the "honor of God" are likewise to be interpreted.

C: **It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."**

M: As violently as I had formerly hated the expression "the righteousness of God," so I was now as violently compelled to embrace the new conception of grace and, thus, for me, the expression of the apostle really opened the gates of paradise.

C: **Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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: A - men.

Be seated

FIRST READING**DANIEL 6:10-12, 16-23**

¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹²So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. ¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

²¹Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! ²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰Therefore 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.

²¹But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

²⁷Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 10:16-23

¹⁶“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON**DANIEL 6:10-12, 16-23***Stand***WE PRAISE YOU, GOD - *Te Deum Laudamus***

Luther valued the ancient Te Deum Laudamus and suggested it might be considered among the ecumenical creeds of the Christian Church. We will speak the words of the canticle as a confession of faith.

**We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
All creation worships you, Father everlasting.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heavenly hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true and only Son,
And the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the King of glory,
The eternal Son of the Father.**

**When you became man to set us free,
You humbled yourself to be born of a virgin.
You overcame the sting of death
And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.
We believe that you will come to be our judge.**

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,
Bought with the price of your own blood,
And bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Based on Luther's prayer at the Diet of Worms (1521) as he faced the papal and imperial authorities.

- 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 the times between life and death. 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.**

M: We are even ready to lay down our life 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: For 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 frivolous. But the Word of God stands firm forever.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer.

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

**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.

Be seated

Stand

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated