

November 2nd, 2025
Celebration of the Lutheran 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).*



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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. No Sunday School or Bible Class today.

Reformation Sunday Each year on October 31, we celebrate Reformation. We remember the blessings that God brought about during the Reformation times, when Martin Luther and the other reformers rediscovered the truths about the gospel and salvation after centuries of darkness.

The Truth Will Set You Free

We value freedom and strive to protect freedoms. But do we truly understand freedom? Freedom for many means doing what you want without control or coercion. Jesus helps us to understand true freedom: “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (Gospel). Jesus says that you will never be free by living however you want. Take that attitude towards life and you'll be a slave. You'll only be free—spiritually, emotionally, eternally—“If you hold to my teaching” and therefore “know the truth.”

A key principle Martin Luther established through the Reformation is sola scriptura, Scripture alone. Luther thought it was the answer to all of life’s fundamental questions. On what basis is a belief or practice justified or rejected? Scripture alone. Who or what is the final arbiter of truth? Scripture alone. Heirs of the Reformation still bind themselves to Scripture.

Does restricting ourselves in this manner curtail freedom? Just the opposite is true. God’s divinely inspired truth brings freedom. It frees us from slavery to sinful delusions, the burden of guilt, and any earthly power. This week we see that when we willingly bind ourselves to truth, Jesus keeps his promise. The truth sets us free.

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

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

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

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, You Set Us Free (tune of Lord Jesus Christ be present now)

1 Lord Jesus Christ, you set us free--
Accept our thanks eternally!
Forgiven through your precious blood,
We now are reconciled to God.

2 By virtue of the wounds you bore,
True God and Man, our hope restore.
Give courage when we yield our breath;
Deliver us from hell and death.

3 Defend us, Lord, from sin and shame;
Help us by your almighty name
To bear our crosses patiently,
Consoled by your great agony.

4 For thus the certainty we gain
That you will always true remain
And not forsake us in our strife
But lead us out of death to life.

5 Praise God the Father, evermore!
Praise God our Savior and our Lord!
Praise God the Spirit everblessed!
Praise God who brings us to his rest.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 31:31–34

³¹“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

³²It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,”
declares the Lord.

³³“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the Lord.

“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the Lord.

“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 ef - fact - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
 de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
 they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
 the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
 he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
 though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
 he holds the field for - ev - er.
 one lit - tle word can fell him.
 the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

SECOND READING

GALATIANS 5:1–6

¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

JOHN 8:31–36

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

638 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace



1 The gos - pel shows the Fa - ther's grace, who sent his
2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, who made th' a -
3 It brings the Sav - ior's right - eous - ness to robe our
4 It is the pow'r of God to save from sin and



Son to save our race, pro - claims how Je - sus
ton - ing sac - ri - fice and calls the souls with
souls in roy - al dress; from all our guilt it
Sa - tan and the grave; it works the faith which



lived and died that we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
guilt op - pressed to come and find e - ter - nal rest.
brings re - lease and gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
firm - ly clings to all the trea - sures which it brings.

**5 It bears to all the tidings glad
and bids their hearts no more be sad;
the weary, burdened souls it cheers
and banishes their guilty fears.**

**6 May we in faith its message learn
nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
may we in faith its truth confess
and praise the Lord, our righteousness.**

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.

Tune: Cationale Germanicum, Gochsheim, 1628

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**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.**

Offering (*At this time our usher will bring our thank offering to the Lord.*)

A LITANY OF REMEMBERING

M: With grateful hearts, O Lord

C: We remember before you this day ...

M: That great cloud of witnesses whose living trust in you, recorded in your Word, becomes an example for us to imitate and follow.

C: Inspire us as we remember them, O Lord.

M: With grateful hearts, O Lord

C: We remember before you this day ...

M: The reformers and confessors who faced the terror of church and empire but stood firm in your truth because they were moved by grace, empowered by faith, and guided by Scripture.

C: Inspire us as we remember them, O Lord.

M: With grateful hearts, O Lord

C: We remember before you this day ...

M: Your faithful followers of every age, among them our own mothers and fathers, pastors and teachers, called, gathered, enlightened and sanctified by the Holy Spirit to be your Church and by whose faithful witness the gospel of your grace has reached at last to us.

C: Inspire us as we remember them, O Lord.

M: With grateful hearts, O Lord,

C: We remember before you this day ...

M: The early and present leaders of our synod, the teachers who trained our grandfathers and those who now teach us, the missionaries who once went to lands uncharted and unmapped, and those who now walk among teeming millions in overcrowded cities.

C: Inspire us as we remember them, O Lord.

M: With grateful hearts, O Lord

C: We remember before you this day ...

M: Our own loved ones whose memories still burn within our hearts, whom you have called in your good time from their labors in life to that life which knows no end.

C: Inspire us as we remember them, O Lord,

M: To carry on their work in this our day, trusting your Son, holding to your Word, confessing your truth, loving the lost, reaching out with your love, until you call us, too, by your great grace in Jesus Christ, to join them where memories are swallowed up by everlasting joy.

C: Amen

M: Let us pray as our Savior taught us:

C: Our Father in heaven.

M: Our Father, almighty Ruler over all things, we, your children by faith in Christ Jesus, pray to you with confidence and joy.

C: Hallowed be your name.

M: Keep us from dishonoring you by false teaching and ungodly living; help us to cling to your pure and precious Word and to lead a life which is pleasing to you.

C: Your kingdom come.

M: Keep us in faith by your grace that we may remain members of your kingdom, the holy Christian Church. Fill our hearts with a concern for souls and bless the work of all who preach and spread your saving Word, that your kingdom may grow and prosper.

C: Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

M: Destroy the plans of the devil and all the enemies who seek to rob us of our life with you. In all things help us to obey you as gladly as do the angels in heaven. When you lead us in ways which seem dark and mysterious, grant that we may surrender our will to yours.

C: Give us today our daily bread.

M: Provide for us each day with what we need for our lives and make us truly content and grateful for what you give us. Move us to cast all our care on you, because you care for us.

C: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

M: For the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus, put away our sins and make us clean by his blood and death. Move us by your great love to forgive those who wrong or grieve us.

C: Lead us not into temptation.

M: Suppress Satan's power when he tries to tempt us. If at first we listen to his voice, give us wisdom to detect his trickery and strength to overcome him.

C: But deliver us from evil.

M: Shield us from harm. When we do face adversity and endure trouble, help us to carry our burdens with patience and trust, knowing that you work out all things for our good. Finally, when our last hour comes, take us to our home in heaven.
Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

M: You alone, O Father, are the eternal King from whom we seek help. You alone have the power to grant our desires. You alone have the glory now and in eternity for all you have done. With confidence and trust we say:

C: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated

HYMN: GOD, WE SING YOUR GLORIOUS PRAISES

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Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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 T give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN: REFORMATION SONG

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