



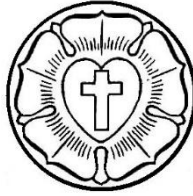
# ABOUT THE PROPER

*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



## Reformation Sunday

October 27, 2024



*Live Like You'll Live Forever*

Live a Life of Courageous Witness

In gratitude for Christ saving us and giving us eternal life, we share the gospel with others, hoping that they will believe and be saved too. Since we know we are going to live forever in the perfection of heaven, we don't worry if being a witness for Christ brings hardship or even death. Martin Luther wanted to reform the false teaching of the church. He stood firm in the truth of the gospel, knowing it might cost him his life. But Luther knew that, thanks to Christ, he would live forever. So will we. Therefore, like Luther, let us live a life of courageous witness.

### First Reading<sup>2</sup>

Daniel 3:16-28

"Since our God, whom we serve, does exist, he is able to save us from the blazing fiery furnace. So, he may save us from your hand, Your Majesty. But if he does not, you should know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods, and we will not worship the golden statue that you set up." Luther could have chosen these words for his motto. They as well could serve as the motto for the faithful in every generation who would rather die than give up a single word, from the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions.

### Second Reading<sup>2</sup>

Revelation 14:6,7

This standard Reformation reading (used at Luther's funeral) extols both the grace of God and the true glory of the preaching ministry. For it is God alone who preserves his Word from the destructive wiles of the devil and wicked men on earth. Grab at it and drag it down though they will, God still holds his Word aloft as a saving breath of the Spirit wafting down on those who hear it. It is the great glory of the preaching ministry that the saving message which ascribes all glory to God is likewise preserved from age to age. Where God receives all the glory for our salvation, we need not dread what men may do, nor even the judgment of God himself. May he by his grace preserve us faithful to his Reformation message and ministry!

### Gospel<sup>2</sup>

Mark 13:5-11

It should not be a surprise to us that error runs rampant through the world and that both nature and nations are so often in chaos. For that is exactly what our Savior has foretold. Each error, each natural disaster, each country in turmoil should drive us to cling all the more tenaciously to his Word by which alone we are saved in the hour of judgment. For without his pure Word there is only faithless error, fear and torment, and finally a total separation from grace on the Day of Judgment. To retain that Word in all of its truth and purity as the anchor which holds us and the rock on which we find refuge in the storms that threaten destruction, and then to share it, those are the goals of true children of the Reformation. For the very heart and soul of that Word is Christ, the incarnate anchor and rock of our salvation.

### Psalm of the Day<sup>4</sup>

Psalm 46 E

"If God Is for Us"

The Church sings Psalm 46 in services that celebrate the power of the Lord in the face of every evil attack. It inspired the hymn "A Mighty Fortress" by Martin Luther. He said, "We sing Psalm 46 to praise the only true God for being with us. He wonderfully upholds his Word and Christendom against the very gates of hell, against the rage of every demon, the world, the flesh, sin, and death. Our little spring is a free-flowing source of living water."

## Gospel Acclamation Luke 12:32

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

## 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.

## Hymn of the Day 864 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (Martin Luther, 1483-1546)

Luther’s well-known work has been nicknamed “the battle hymn of the Lutheran Reformation.” Verses 1-3 of the original text were inspired by Psalm 46; verse 4 arose directly from Luther’s persecution experience. The text expresses trust in God’s protection amidst the battle that Christians wage against the devil and other evil forces – a battle won by Christ (v2). The closing line of the text provides much comfort: “Our victory is won; the kingdom’s ours forever!”

## Church Year Season<sup>1</sup> Season after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

## Minor Festivals St. James of Jerusalem (October 23) St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles (October 28)

## Colors & Symbolism Red

Red, the color of fire, is the color for the Festival of Pentecost. It signifies the appearance of what looked like tongues of fire over them when the Holy Spirit descended at the first Pentecost, and reminds us that the Spirit is active in the Church, keeping it in the Gospel until Christ comes again. The color red is also used for festivals of renewal in the Holy Spirit, such as Reformation, missions, and ordination. The color also reminds us of the blood of the martyrs – the believers of every generation who by the power of the Holy Spirit hold firm to the true faith even at the cost of their lives.

## Nain Paraments Reformation Sunday

Superfrontal, Lectern antependium, and Pastor’s stole: Luther’s seal (or, Luther’s rose) is the most recognized symbol for Lutheranism. It was the seal that was designed by Dr. Martin Luther to represent his theology and summarize the Christian faith. From Luther’s own explanation: “The cross is black to remind us Jesus died to take away our sins. It is placed within a red heart to remind us that faith in Christ crucified saves us. The heart is red because Jesus shed his blood for us that we may live. In his great love, God has given us forgiveness and righteousness through the gift of faith. The white rose reminds us that our faith gives us joy, comfort, and peace. White is the color of purity and reminds us that we have peace with our holy God like the angels enjoy. The blue background represents the sky and reminds us that we will meet Jesus in heaven. By the Holy Spirit’s power and through faith in Jesus’ promise, we grasp onto this hope of heavenly joy. The gold ring reminds us of heaven’s eternal joys. The endless shape of the circle and the preciousness of gold remind us that the treasure of God’s love for us will endure forever.”

The Latin words on the left and right of the altar superfrontal – *Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura* – are translated, “By Grace alone, By Faith alone, By Scripture alone.” This was and is the most common motto of the spirit of the Lutheran Reformation. We are saved by Grace, through faith (not by works), as revealed and brought to us through God’s Holy Word (cf. Ephesians 2:8-10).

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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