

## Reformation Sunday

October 27, 2019

10:30 AM

*We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.  
As you enter the sanctuary, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.  
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your thoughts toward God.*

### We prepare for worship

*Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...*

*Why do you say that by faith alone you are right with God? It is not because of any value my faith has that God is pleased with me. Only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me right with God. And I can receive this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than by faith alone.*

*The Heidelberg Catechism, 1563: Q. 61*

Prelude

Mrs. Wendy Wickham

### We praise our great God

\*Call to Worship

Psalm 46:1, 2, 6-8, 10, 11 (ESV)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

**The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

\*Hymn No. 92

*A Mighty Fortress*

Ein' Feste Burg

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great; and armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,  
And he must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God has willed his truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure,  
For lo! His doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them abideth;  
The spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever.

\*Invocation

### We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalms 129 & 130

(Hymnal pg. 833)

**Psalm 129**

They have greatly oppressed me from my youth—let Israel say—  
**they have greatly oppressed me from my youth, but they have not gained the victory over me.**

Plowmen have plowed my back and made their furrows long.

**But the Lord is righteous; he has cut me free from the cords of the wicked.**

May all who hate Zion be turned back in shame.

**May they be like grass on the roof, which withers before it can grow;**

with it the reaper cannot fill his hands, nor the one who gathers fill his arms.

**May those who pass by not say, “The blessing of the LORD be upon you; we bless you in the name of the LORD.**

### Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

**Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.**

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.

**My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

**He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

### Silent Confession of Sins

Assurance of Pardon (unison)

Martin Luther

Upon this I anchor my confidence. For I know that my Lord Christ has overcome death, sin, hell and the devil for my good. For he was innocent, as Peter says: “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.” (1 Pet. 2:22). Therefore sin and death were not able to slay him, hell could not hold him, and he has become their Lord, and has granted this to all who accept and believe it. All this is effected not by my works or merits; but by pure grace, goodness and mercy.

Confession Faith (unison)

The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 56

What do you believe concerning “the forgiveness of sins”? **That God, for the sake of Christ’s satisfaction, will no more remember my sins, neither my corrupt nature, against which I have to struggle all my life long; but will graciously impute to me the righteousness of Christ, that I may never be condemned before the tribunal of God.**

\*Hymn

*How Deep the Father’s Love for Us*

Townend  
 CCLI Lic. No. 944471

How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure  
 That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
 How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away  
 As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders,  
 Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
 It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;  
 His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.

But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.  
 Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
 But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (in unison)

### **We respond in gratitude for God's blessing**

\**The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731)* and Prayer of Dedication

God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory

*How Firm a Foundation*

arr. Dan Forrest

The Adult Choir

*The children may dismiss for church-time programs.*

### **We hear God speak**

Scripture Reading

Esther 3:1-6; 5:9-6:14

(Pew Bible, pg. 355)

#### **Haman Plots Against the Jews**

**3** After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him. <sup>2</sup> And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage. <sup>3</sup> Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?" <sup>4</sup> And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew. <sup>5</sup> And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury. <sup>6</sup> But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy<sup>[annihilate]</sup> all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

#### **Haman Plans to Hang Mordecai**

**5:9** And Haman went out that day joyful and glad of heart. But when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he neither rose nor trembled before him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai. <sup>10</sup> Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and brought his friends and his wife Zeresh. <sup>11</sup> And Haman recounted to them the splendor of his riches, the number of his sons, all the promotions with which the king had honored him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and the servants of the king. <sup>12</sup> Then Haman said, "Even Queen Esther let no one but me come with the king to the feast she prepared. And tomorrow also I am invited by her together with the king. <sup>13</sup> Yet all this is worth nothing to me, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate." <sup>14</sup> Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows<sup>[wooden beam]</sup> fifty cubits<sup>[a cubit was about 18 inches]</sup> high be made, and in the morning tell the king to have Mordecai hanged upon it. Then go joyfully with the king to the feast." This idea pleased Haman, and he had the gallows made.

#### **The King Honors Mordecai**

**6** On that night the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king. <sup>2</sup> And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. <sup>3</sup> And the king said, "What

honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" The king's young men who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him." <sup>4</sup> And the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows<sup>[wooden beam]</sup> that he had prepared for him. <sup>5</sup> And the king's young men told him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in." <sup>6</sup> So Haman came in, and the king said to him, "What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" And Haman said to himself, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" <sup>7</sup> And Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, <sup>8</sup> let royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set. <sup>9</sup> And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials. Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor, and let them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.'" <sup>10</sup> Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Leave out nothing that you have mentioned." <sup>11</sup> So Haman took the robes and the horse, and he dressed Mordecai and led him through the square of the city, proclaiming before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor." <sup>12</sup> Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. <sup>13</sup> And Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not overcome him but will surely fall before him."

### **Esther Reveals Haman's Plot**

<sup>14</sup> While they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried to bring Haman to the feast that Esther had prepared.

Sermon

*"A Ten-letter Word"*

Dr. Davis

### **We respond to God's grace**

\*Hymn No. 520

*Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness*

Germany

Jesus, thy blood and righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress;  
'midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in thy great day; for who aught to my charge shall lay?  
Fully absolved through these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

When from the dust of death I rise to claim my mansion in the skies,  
ev'n then this shall be all by plea, Jesus hath lived, hath died, for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me—  
For me a full atonement made, an everlasting ransom paid.

O let the dead now hear thy voice; now bid thy banished ones rejoice;  
Their beauty this, their glorious dress, Jesus, thy blood and righteousness.

\*Benediction and Three-Fold *Amen* (*Hymnal*, pg. 740)

Danish

Postlude

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\*Those who are able, please stand.

