

THE FESTIVAL  
*of the*  
**Reformation**



**The Truth Will Set You Free**

*Reformation Sunday*

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*October 30, 2022*

## **THEME OF THE DAY: 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.

**Worship Leader**  
**Organist/Pianist**

Pastor Justin Wilkens  
Kathy Bremer

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **The Service, Setting One (page 154 in Christian Worship 21)**

### **Hymn: 865 O Lord, Take Pity Once You've Seen**

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

### **Confession**

*CW 154*

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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

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.**

## Glory Be to God

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



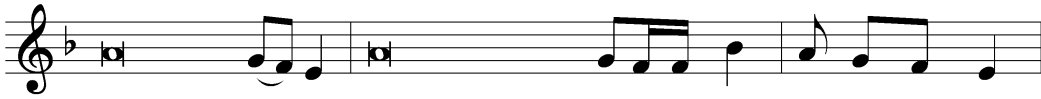
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



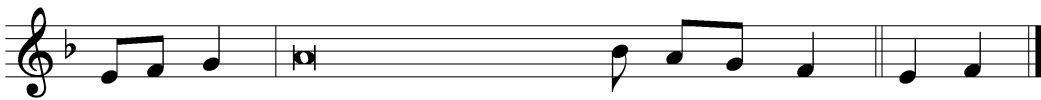
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Jeremiah 31:31–34*

*The old covenant of law could tell people how to act. It could not create the desire to freely do so. The new covenant of grace transforms people's hearts, so they freely and joyfully follow God's will.*

<sup>31</sup> Yes, the days are coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah.

<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers,  
when I took them by the hand  
and led them out of the land of Egypt.  
They broke that covenant of mine,  
although I was a husband to them, declares the Lord.

<sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel  
after those days,  
declares the Lord.

I will put my law in their minds,  
and I will write it on their hearts.  
I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.

<sup>34</sup> No longer will each one teach his neighbor,  
or each one teach his brother, saying, "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 guilt,  
and I will remember their sins no more.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Galatians 5:1–6*

*St. Paul encourages us to stand firm in the freedom that we have in Christ.*

### Freedom in Christ

<sup>1</sup> It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not allow anyone to put the yoke of slavery on you again. <sup>2</sup> Look, I, Paul, tell you that if you allow yourselves to be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. <sup>3</sup> I testify again to every man who allows himself to be circumcised that he is obligated to do the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You who are trying to be declared righteous by the law are completely separated from Christ. You have fallen from grace.

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, through the Spirit, we by faith are eagerly waiting for the sure hope of righteousness. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters. Rather, it is faith working through love that matters.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Gospel Acclamation**

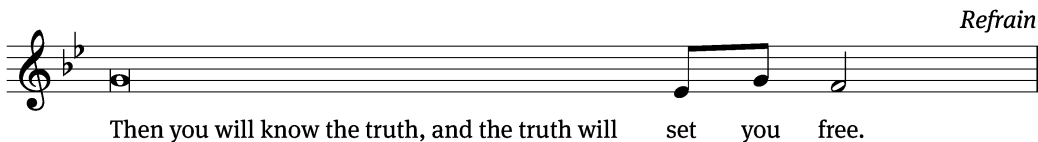
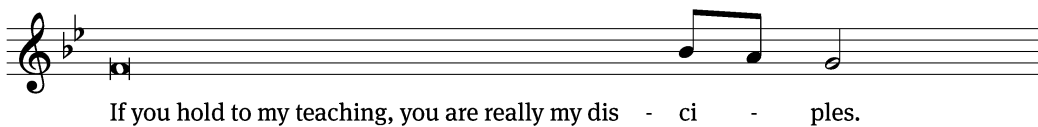
*John 8:31,32*



*Refrain*



*Tone*



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**Gospel**

*John 8:31–36*

*The truth of the gospel sets us free.*

**Dispute Over Whose Children Jesus' Opponents Are**

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

<sup>33</sup> "We are Abraham's descendants," they answered, "and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, 'You will be set free'?"

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **Hymn of the Day: 863 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

### **Sermon**

*Stand*

### **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**



**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Gracious God, in mercy you sent your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, into this world to redeem us from sin and rescue us from hell. Through your Scriptures and by your Spirit, you have brought us to faith in your Son and have assured us that Christ has fully completed the work of our salvation. Lead us to rejoice in the message of forgiveness through faith alone in Christ Jesus. When guilt grieves our consciences and shame squelches our confidence, use your Word to encourage and comfort our souls with the good news of your unconditional love.

Almighty God, in the face of immense pressure to compromise their confession, you emboldened Martin Luther and the Lutheran reformers to take a firm stand on the truths of Scripture. Through their clear confession of faith, you restored the gospel to your church and have preserved this saving truth among us today. Send us your Holy Spirit that we exhibit the same zeal and faithfulness as the Lutheran confessors. Give us courage to confess our faith sincerely and boldly in the classroom, the workplace, the community, and to everyone we encounter who needs to hear the truth of your Word. Use our confession to bring faith in your Son to the hearts of those who do not yet believe in you.

Eternal God, you have promised to preserve and protect your church in every age. Even when it appeared that the enemies of the gospel had silenced your truth, you kept your people faithful to you and your Word. Bless all who face hardships for their faith with an added

measure of your Holy Spirit so that they do not lose heart as they bear their crosses. Comfort the sick and suffering, the depressed and lonely, those who are persecuted and ridiculed for their faith, and all others who need the encouragement of your love. Fix our eyes on the cross of your Son, his empty tomb, and the sure promise of eternal life in heaven's glory.

Lord God, you know the concerns of our hearts and minds. Hear the public prayers we have spoken with our lips and the personal prayers we offer to you in our hearts, and answer them according to your gracious will. Increase our trust in your power and wisdom that we may rest secure in the plans and purposes you have for our lives; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## **Offering**

**Hymn: 876 Fight the Good Fight**

*sts. 1–2*

## **THE SACRAMENT**

*Stand*

### **Preface**

*CW 165*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,  
bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.**

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated*

### **Distribution**

**Close Communion** *We ask that only those who have previously spoken to our pastor or are members in good standing of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to Holy Communion today. Our practice of Close Communion (which has been the practice of the Christian Church throughout the ages) is in no way trying to judge anyone's faith. What we are trying to do is follow the Bible's clear teaching (1 Corinthians 11) to first study God's Word together. As we do so, we can share with/review with you what the Lord's Supper is all about. You, then, also have an opportunity to examine what we believe and teach before you come to the Lord's Supper and make a public profession that you agree with what we teach.*

### **Distribution Hymn: 855 The Church's One Foundation**

*sts. 1-5*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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 + give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **Hymn: 868 By Faith**

## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship and Communion, 4:00 PM Joint Reformation Service

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship

### **Joint Reformation Service**

The Joint Reformation Service will be here at Bethel at 4:00 PM on October 30th.

### **WELS Regional Youth Night**

St. Paul's in Plymouth (106 East Hwy 4 Plymouth, NE 68424) is hosting the first WELS Regional Youth Night on Sunday, November 20th from 3:30-5:30 (with supper provided). Area youths (current 8th-12th graders) from all WELS churches in the area are invited. Please register beforehand (if possible) with the Google Form Link:

<https://forms.gle/QVLemjb8A4MifqRD7>

### **Ladies Aid Meeting**

The next Ladies Aid Meeting will be on November 1st at 10:00 AM.

**CONNECTION CARDS:** Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at [www.bethelyork.com](http://www.bethelyork.com) on the member connect tab or scan this code.



Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethelyork](http://www.facebook.com/bethelyork)



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Worship 60, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,583.54, Given \$1,485.25. **To God be the glory!**

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