

Order of Worship
Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
745 S. Ingraham Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33801
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INTRODUCTION On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, inviting debate over the sale of indulgences. That debate grew into the Reformation, which led to the formation of the Lutheran Church and other Protestant churches across Europe, and then around the world. We lament the violence and division that followed. Luther taught that the Church is always called to reform in the light of the gospel, and that we are justified by God's grace through faith in Christ. In 1999, the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church affirmed that teaching together in the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. Today we pray that the whole Church will be united and remain open to reform through the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit.

***=ALL STAND** for this part of worship

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Ein feste Burg" (rhythmic) arr. Wilbur Held

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
Creator of the stars of night,
Companion at the evening table,
Breath over the deep waters. Amen.
Let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection

Holy and gracious God,
**We confess that we have sinned
against You this day.
Some of our sin we know - the thoughts and words
and deeds of which we are
ashamed - but some is known only to You.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask forgiveness.
Deliver and restore us,
and give us your peace. Amen.**

By the mercy of God we are united
with Christ Jesus,
In whom we are forgiven and set free.
Amen.

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

Continued on Next Page

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

* KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



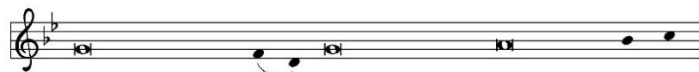
Lord, have mer - cy.



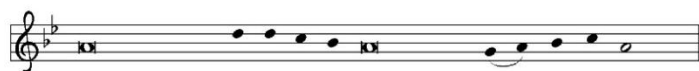
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

*GLORIA

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



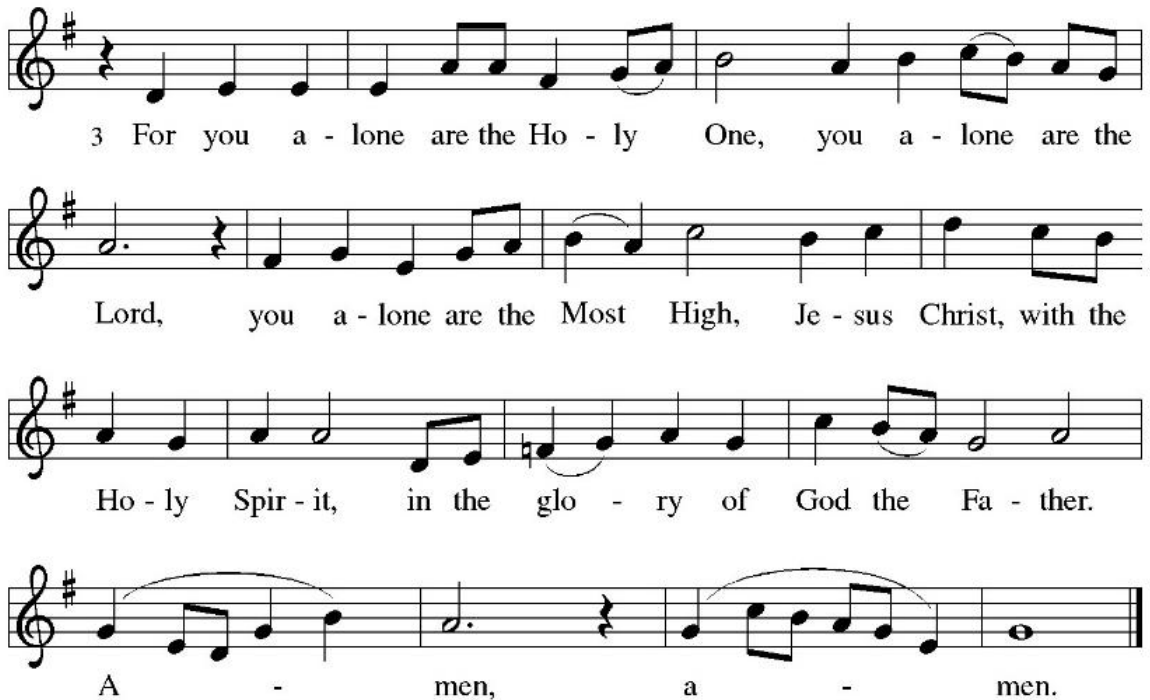
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Continued on next page



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on all your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer

shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46 (*We will read the Psalm responsively by half verse.*)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,

and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

³ though its waters rage and foam,

and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;

God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;

God speaks, and the earth melts away.

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ Come now, regard the works of the Lord,

what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;

who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,

and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ “Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING:

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

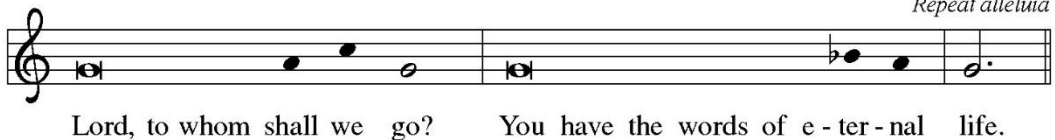
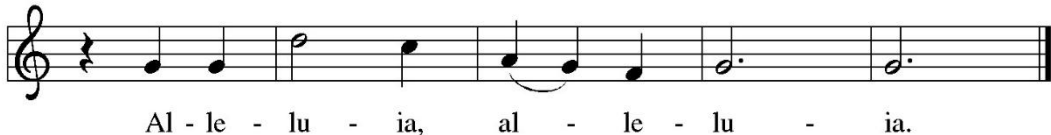
²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



***GOSPEL:**

John 8:31-32

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz

Silence is kept for reflection.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

ELW 517

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

We now profess the faith we share using the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Please bless presiding Bishop Curry, Bishop Suárez, and our synod staff. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Bless all who are looking for work or struggling financially in any way. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing of healing upon those who have been harmed by or in faith communities. We pray for the integrity of religious leaders, that the truth may make all free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering, *especially Mary, Anne, Mabel, June, Willah, Rickey, Julie, Carol, Judy, Jeff, Gloria, Jennifer, Brian, James & Gray, Wil, Amy, Al, Al, Bob & Jane, Scott, Lynda, Ron & Flo, Barbara, Monica, Avery, Art, John, Abby, Colline, Tim, Arleen & Richard, Betty, Linda, Sue, Natalie, Henry, Glenn, Gary, Connie, Greg, Beverly & Ray, Helen & Ron, and Max.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead, including Martin Luther and Caroline Low. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

GRATITUDE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Built On the Rock the Church Doth Stand

Wolff

***OFFERING SONG**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 181

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are: 'Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the', 'brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the', 'seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.', 'Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the', 'prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,', and 'and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.'

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts and our abilities, and turn our hearts to service to you
and love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was handed over,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

***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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized children of God are invited to the Lord's Table, where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We partake at the communion rail; gluten free bread and grape juice are available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and we will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Anyone may remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer, following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

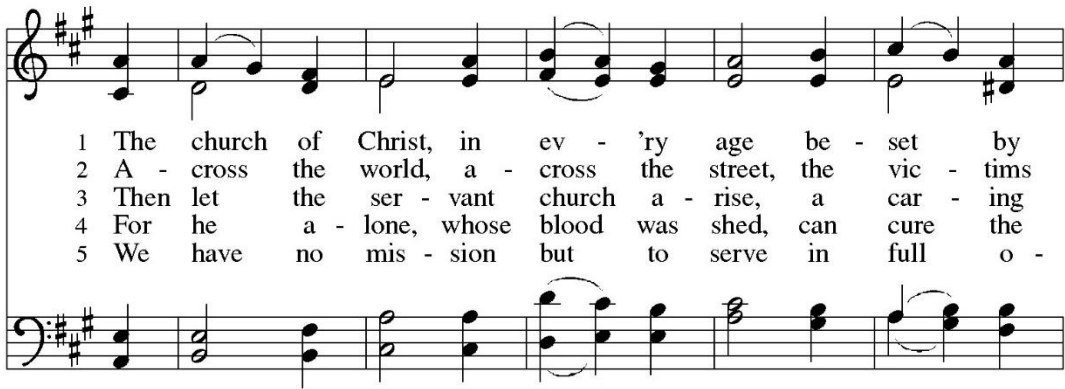
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN(S)

The Church of Christ, in Every Age
Eat this Bread
(Next pages)

ELW 729
ELW 472

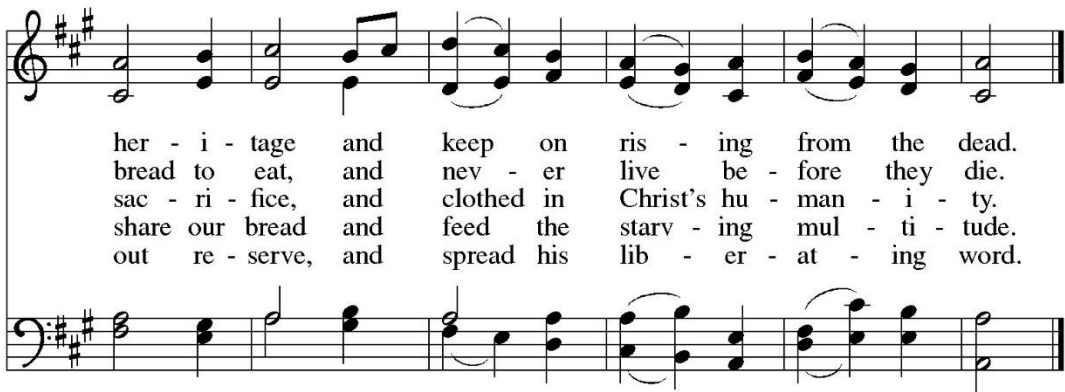
The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -

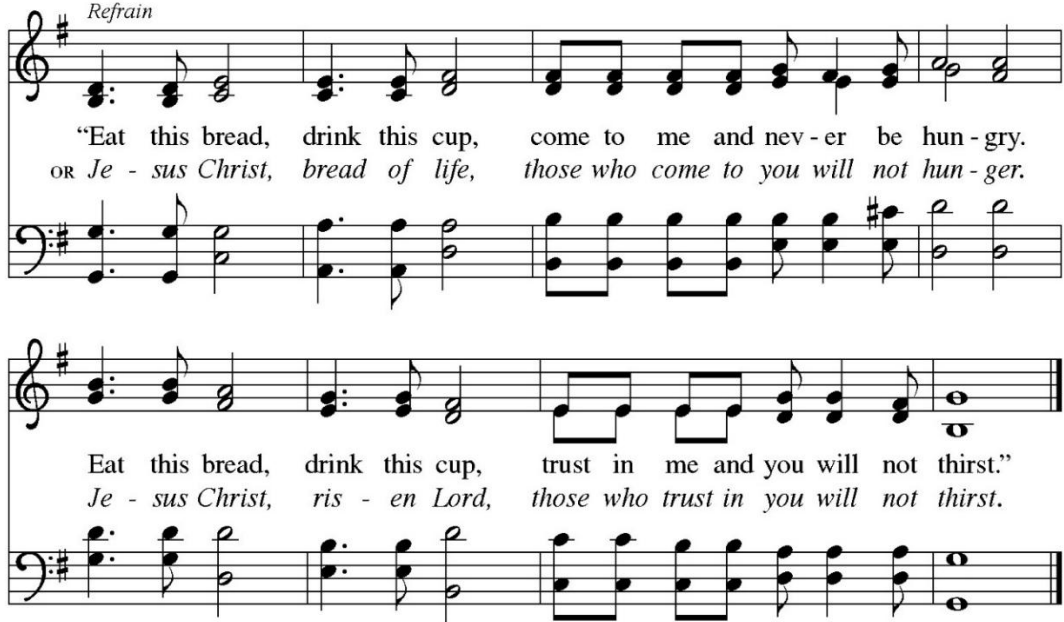


her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Eat This Bread

Jesus Christ, Bread of Life

Refrain



The musical score for the Refrain is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry. OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger."

"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you
and keep you in His grace.
Amen.

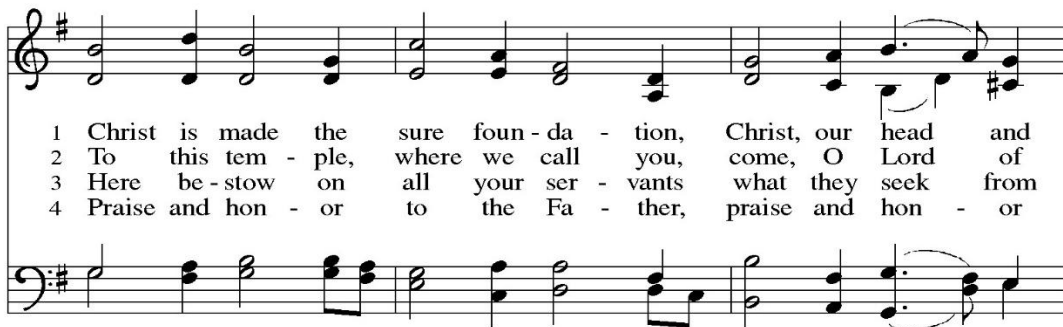
***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.
**Sustaining God, with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table
to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation,
healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

ELW 645



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

***BENEDICTION**

God, the Source of glory,
God, the Word of life,
God, the Spirit of truth
✠ bless you all, now and forever.
Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy.
Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fantasie on “Ein feste Burg”

Paul Fey

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