

## Reformation Sunday

October 29, 2023

### Abiding in His Word, Proclaiming His Freedom

**As We Gather** - Jesus calls us to abide in His Word. To abide means to dwell or be at home. Are you at home in Jesus' Word? Is it the place where you long to be? Jesus' Word is the only place in all the world where we can find the absolute guarantee of sins forgiven, hope restored, and new life granted as children of God the Father. Today, Jesus mercifully calls us to come to Him, confess our sins, and be filled with His pardon and peace. He will renew us by His Word, strengthen us at His Table, and send us forth with His blessing to proclaim to all creation: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

**Prelude and Meditation:** Before worship we talk to God (see prayers on page 308 in the hymnal); during worship God talks to us; after worship we talk to one another.

#### Pre-service Music:

##### **"Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying"** by Jeffrey Blersch

Elsie Augenblick, conductor, Adam Cooley, violin, Elena Miraztchiyska, piano, Christ Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church Choirs

##### **"Be Thou My Vision"** (Slane)-arr. Paul Manz

Benjamin Meyer, trumpet /Andrew Shaheen, organ, Our Savior Lutheran Church

##### **"In Christ Alone"** (William Bradbury)-arr. Lloyd Larson

Andrea Hazzard, soprano, Maria Hazzard, alto, Elena Miraztchiyska, piano, Christ Lutheran Church

##### **"Canon in D"** (Pachelbel)- arr. Jacob Kneser

Jacob Kneser, piano, St. Paul Lutheran Church

##### **"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word"**, arr. Sandra Eithun

Bells Of Joy Bell Choir, Kristel Lehmker, director, St. Paul Lutheran Church

##### **"Sinfonia"** from Cantata No. 156 J. S. Bach

John Peterson, saxophone, Elena Miraztchiyska, piano, Grace Lutheran Church

**“Come, Christians, Join To Sing”** (Christian Bateman)- arr. Brandon Dix  
 Combined Brass Quintet, Caleb Hazzard, trumpet I, Heather Fether, trumpet II,  
 Susan Johns, horn, Maria Hazzard, trombone, Sidney Lehmker, tuba

**Prelude: “God of Grace and God of Glory”** arr. Paul Manz/ transcribed by  
 Benjamin M. Culli  
 Benjamin Meyer, trumpet, Andrew Shaheen, organ, Our Savior Lutheran Church

**PREPARATION**

**Hymn of Invocation: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice** *LSB 556 sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7*  
 Andrew Shaheen, accompanist, Our Savior Lutheran



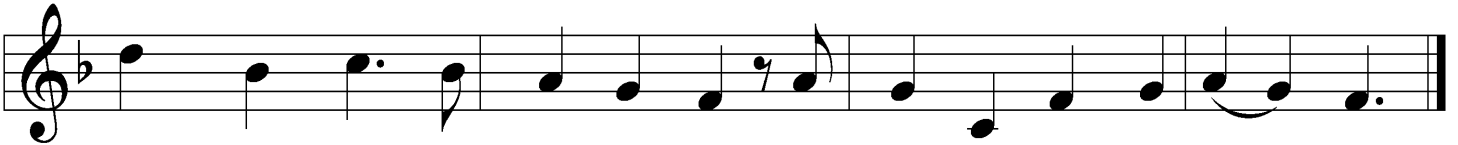
1 Dear Chris-tians, one and all, re - joice, With ex - ul - ta - tion  
 2 Fast bound in Sa - tan’s chains I lay; Death brood-ed dark - ly  
 4 But God had seen my wretch-ed state Be - fore the world’s foun -  
 5 God said to His be - lov - ed Son: “It’s time to have com -  
 7 To me He said: “Stay close to Me, I am your rock and



spring - ing, And with u - nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly  
 o’er me. Sin was my tor - ment night and day; In sin my  
 da - tion, And mind - ful of His mer - cies great, He planned for  
 pas - sion. Then go, bright jew - el of My crown, And bring to  
 cas - tle. Your ran - som I My - self will be; For you I



rap - ture sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God has done, How  
 moth - er bore me. But dai - ly deep - er still I fell; My  
 my sal - va - tion. He turned to me a fa - ther’s heart; He  
 all sal - va - tion. From sin and sor - row set them free; Slay  
 strive and wres - tle. For I am yours, and you are Mine, And



His right arm the vic-t'ry won. What price our ran-som cost Him!  
life be-came a liv-ing hell, So firm-ly sin pos-sessed me.  
did not choose the eas-y part But gave His dear-est trea-sure.  
bit-ter death for them that they May live with You for-ev-er."  
where I am you may re-main; The foe shall not di-vide us.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.  
Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, 1524, Wittenberg  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

*John 8:31–32*

- P** Jesus said, "If you abide in My word,  
**C** you are truly My disciples,  
**P** and you will know the truth,  
**C** and the truth will set you free."

## Confession and Absolution

*John 8:36*

- P** With humble hearts, let us approach our Father's throne of grace.

*Silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior*

- P** Together, we pray:  
**C** Gracious Father, because our entire lives are to be ones of repentance, we bow before You and confess our sins. We have turned away from the truth of Your Word, choosing to go our own way. By what we have thought, by what we have done, and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and are deserving of Your wrath and punishment. By the mercy of Christ, Your Son, set us free from our captivity. Enable us by Your Holy Spirit to live under You in Your kingdom and to serve You in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Amen.

**P** Just as Christ is risen from the dead, He lives and reigns to all eternity! It is most certainly true that He died and rose again for you to make you right with God, to adopt you as children of the heavenly Father, and to set you free from sin and death. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** "So if the Son sets you free,

**C** **you will be free indeed!"**

## **WORD**

**Psalm**

*Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7*

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

**P** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**C** **Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

**P** though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

**C** **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

**P** God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

**C** **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.**

**P** Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth.  
**C** **He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.**

**P** "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

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

## **Kyrie**

*LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** 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.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

Hymn:

All Glory Be to God on High

LSB 947

Andrew Shaheen, accompanist, Our Savior Lutheran



1 All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His  
 2 We praise and laud and wor - ship You; We give You thanks for -  
 3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Be - got - ten of the  
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, our de - light And source of con - so -



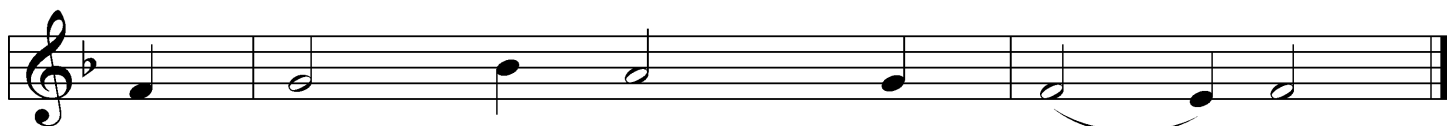
fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A  
 ev - er, O Fa - ther, for Your rule is true And  
 Fa - ther, Your sav - ing death has made us one With  
 la - tion, Pro - tect us from the dev - il's might Through



child of God for - ev - er. God shows His good and  
 just and chang - es nev - er. With bound - less pow'r, Your  
 God and with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to  
 Je - sus, our sal - va - tion, Who by His death up -



gra - cious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—  
 might - y reign Ful - fills what - ev - er You or - dain.  
 You on high In our dis - tress we sin - ners cry,  
 on a tree Has res - cued us from mis - er - y:



All strife at last has end - ed.  
 Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!  
 Have mer - cy on us, a - men!  
 To this we hold for - ev - er.

Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006    Tune: attr. Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546    Text: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000852    Tune: Public domain

Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, to know You is to know true freedom from sin and to live in the transforming power of Your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, who hold fast to the Word of Your Son, may never return to our captivity but walk daily in the new life we have received; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

*Revelation 14:6–7*

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. <sup>7</sup>And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Romans 3:19–28*

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

<sup>20</sup>For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup>It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Choir Anthem:**

**“Forever/A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

Chris Tomlin/  
Martin Luther/Arr. Schrader

Carol Christiansen, accompanist, St. Paul, Linda Sherman, director

**Holy Gospel**

*John 8:31–36*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

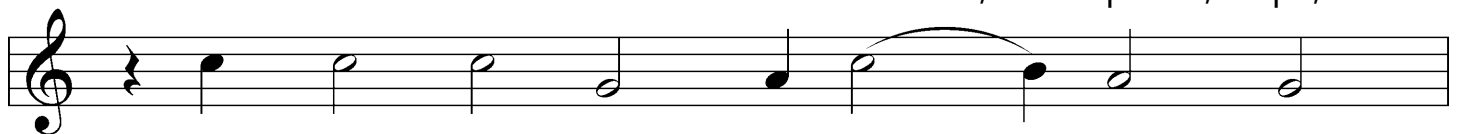
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn:**

**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

*LSB 656*

Barbara Carnicelli, accompanist, Hope, Plant City



1 A     might - y     for - tress   is           our     God,  
2 With   might   of   ours     can   naught     be     done,  
3 Though dev - ils   all   the   world     should   fill,  
4 The    Word   they   still   shall   let        re -   main

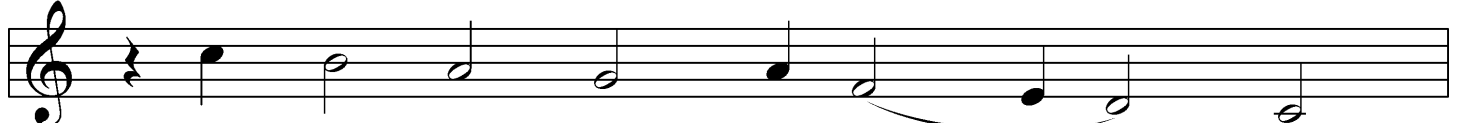


A    trust - y     shield     and   weap     -       on;  
Soon were   our     loss        ef - fect     -       ed;  
All   ea - ger     to        de - vour     -       us,  
Nor   an - y     thanks    have   for        it;

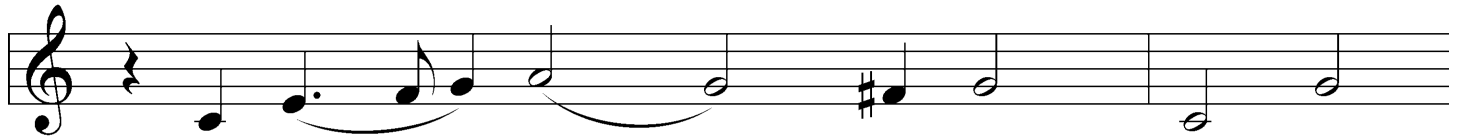




He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
 But for us fights the val - iant One,  
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
 He's by our side up - on the plain



That hath us now o'er - tak - en.  
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



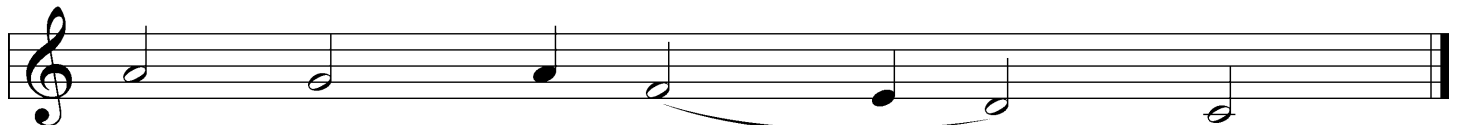
The old e - vil foe Now means  
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus  
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce  
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might  
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,  
 as he will, He can harm us none.  
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth  
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds  
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -  
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.  
 the field for - ev - er.  
 tle word can fell him.  
 dom ours re - main - eth.

Sermon:

Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz

Guest Preacher

Hymn:

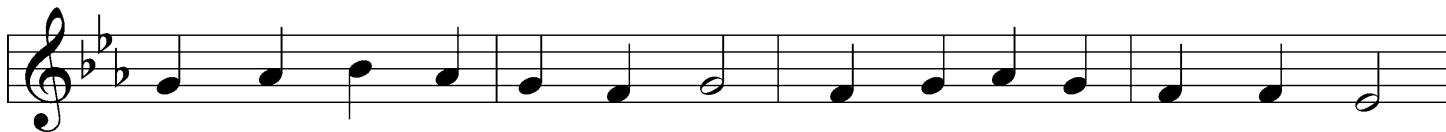
We All Believe in One True God

LSB 953

Barbara Carnicelli, accompanist, Hope, Plant City



1 We all be-lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,  
2 We all be-lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and Mar - y's son,  
3 We all con-fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,



Ev - er - pres - ent help in need, Praised by all the heav'n - ly host;  
Who de - scend - ed from His throne And for us sal - va - tion won;  
Who sus - tains and com-forts us In all tri - als, fears, and needs.



All He made His love en-folds, All cre - a - tion He up-holds.  
By whose cross and death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y.  
Bless-ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty, Praise for - ev - er be to Thee!

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Offering

**Choir Anthem: "I Will Trust In Christ Alone"** (Roger Thornhill) arr. Mary Ann Cooper  
Linda Sherman, piano, Kristel Lehmker, director, St. Paul Lutheran Church

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus, You have freed us from the captivity to sin and death, from the delusion of trying to earn and maintain our own righteousness, and from the chains of condemnation and fear. That is why we rejoice in Your Word: If the Son sets you free,

**C** **you will be free indeed!**

**P** Lord Jesus, only Your mercy and grace enable us to know, find, and live in the freedom of Your eternal Gospel. Send Your Spirit upon Your Church that we continue in the truths of the Reformation, and that, to all the peoples of the world, we proclaim this truth: If the Son sets you free,

**C** **you will be free indeed!**

**P** Lord Jesus, free us from self-centeredness and pride. Turn our focus toward You first in faith and then toward others in love. Bless all who serve You and others in their homes, in the church, in the workplace, and in our community to rejoice in knowing that if the Son sets you free,

**C** **you will be free indeed!**

**P** Lord Jesus, You proclaim freedom for the captives and recovery for those with infirmities. Grant Your healing, in both soul and body, to those we name before You, [*especially...*]. Rejoicing in Your healing touch, grant that all who receive Your Good News boldly say: If the Son sets you free,

**C** **you will be free indeed!**

**P** Lord Jesus, for these and all other concerns we have, please hear and answer our prayers according to Your gracious will

**C** **that we live each day in the freedom we have come to know. Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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.**

### Choir Anthem:

**"The Lord Bless and Keep You "**

by Peter C. Lutkin

Carol Christiansen, St. Paul, accompanist, Elsie Augenblick , director

## Benediction

*John 8:31–32, 36; Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** Jesus said, "If you abide in My word,

**C** **you are truly My disciples,**

**P** and you will know the truth,

**C** **and the truth will set you free.**

**P** So if the Son sets you free,

**C** **you will be free indeed."**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn:

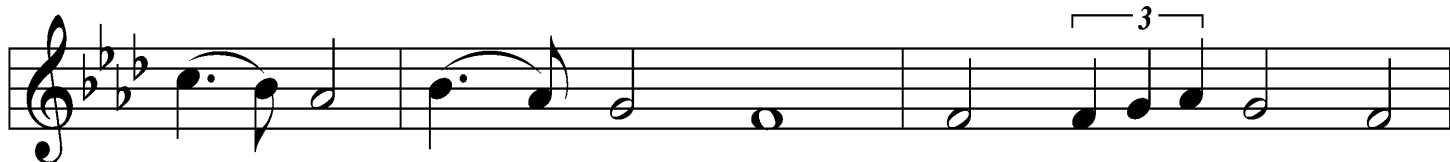
## Thy Strong Word

LSB 578

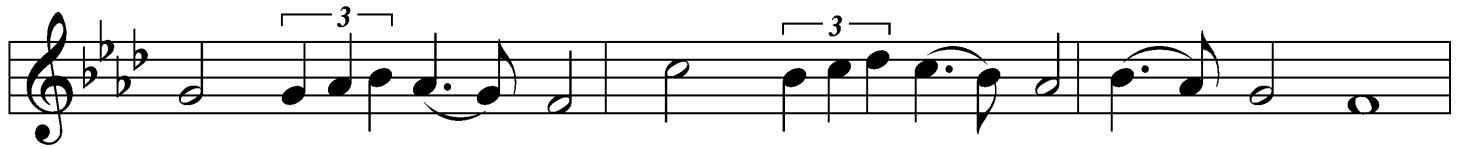
Christine Mansell, accompanist, Hope, Plant City



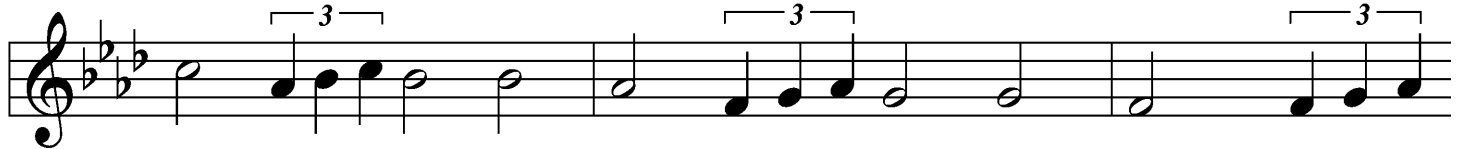
1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy  
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as  
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with  
4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



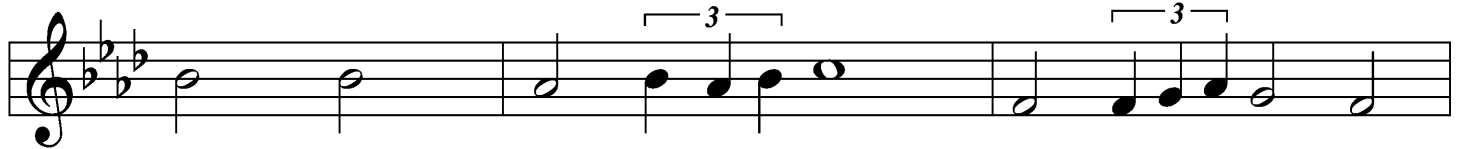
speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
night and deep as death, Broke the light of  
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we  
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 May the light which Thou dost send  
 Fill our songs with alleluias,  
 Alleluias without end!

△ 6 God the Father, light-creator,  
 To Thee laud and honor be.  
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
 Praise be sung eternally.  
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
 Glory, glory be to Thee.  
 Mortals, angels, now and ever  
 Praise the holy Trinity!

## Postlude:

## “Ebenezer”

Setting Richard W. Gieseke  
Christine Mansell, director, Hope Lutheran Church

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(After the Service you are invited to the Fellowship Hall for our evening meal.)

The very best of all works is that the heathen have been led from idolatry to the knowledge of God.      Martin Luther

### **May God Bestow on Us His Grace** *LSB 823 vs 1*

May God bestow on us His grace,  
With blessings rich provide us;  
And may the brightness of His face  
To life eternal guide us,  
That we His saving health may know,  
His gracious will and pleasure,  
And also to the nations show  
Christ's riches without measure  
And unto God convert them.

Text: Public domain

Martin Luther

After we have learned to know God in His Son and have received the forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit, who endues hearts with joy and with the peace of soul by which we look with contempt on sin and death, what remains to be done? Go, and do not be silent. You are not the only one to be saved; the remaining multitude of men should also be preserved.      Martin Luther



Dr. Gregory Seltz is a distinguished theologian and evangelical leader who has served various prominent roles including Speaker of The Lutheran Hour® radio program, Director of the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center of Concordia University, Executive Director of Life's Journey Ministries, and has fostered numerous cross-cultural ministries; his profound impact on urban religious outreach and leadership preparation is underscored by his extensive academic credentials and his steadfast dedication to personal spiritual practice.

Prior to Seltz's work in Washington D.C., he served as the Speaker of The Lutheran Hour® radio program, a position he held since February 2011. As Speaker, now Speaker Emeritus, he was the featured speaker on Lutheran Hour Ministries' flagship Christian outreach radio program, which boasts over 1 million listeners and airs on more than 1,800 stations across North America, as well as on the American Forces Network. He served as the organization's spiritual leader, evangelist, and ministry emissary with The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) and Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC).

Before joining Lutheran Hour Ministries, Seltz most recently served as the Director of the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center, as well as Professor of Theology at Concordia University in Irvine, California. He joined Concordia in 2000 to oversee the master's program in Theology and Culture. With over 75 pastors now in the urban mission field during his tenure, his work prepared leaders from various cultures to launch ministries in a variety of cultural settings, including Vietnamese, Korean, Spanish, Indonesian, Indian, and African-American, to name a few.

Prior to his work at Concordia, Seltz was the Executive Director of Life's Journey Ministries, an urban, not-for-profit evangelism ministry in Manhattan, New York. He was

also the founding pastor of the first new Lutheran mission start in New York City in more than 40 years (Church For All Nations-LCMS), started a mission church in Dallas, and served as pastor of a large congregation in Tampa.

Seltz is a sought-after speaker on topics such as "Church and State – The Public Theology and Mission of Christ's Church in the 21st Century," "The Public Practice of Believers as Faithful 'Citizens'," "Two-Kingdoms – One Mission – God at Work in the World to Bless," "Missions," "Evangelism," "Cross-Cultural Ministry," "Pastoral Leadership in an Urban, Diverse World," and "Preparing Pastors and Leaders for the Post-modern, Urban Church."

Seltz holds a bachelor's degree in New Testament-Biblical Languages from Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan, plus a Master of Divinity in Systematics–New Testament, a Master of Sacred Theology in Systematics, and a PhD in Theology and Culture from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He was also awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree from Concordia University Irvine for his urban work in Dallas, NYC, and Los Angeles, launching churches in the city as well as training over 75 candidates for LCMS-urban Ministry in the United States. He and his wife, Marie Yvette, have one daughter, Devin.

This young convert was deeply impressed and determined to make these the rules of his life. From that day onward throughout his life, he made it a rule to spend the first moments of his day alone with God and God's Word. Before he read a letter, looked at a paper or even read a telegram, he went first to the Bible, so that the first impression of the day might be what he got directly from God.

*Biography from [www.lcrlfreedom.org](http://www.lcrlfreedom.org)*

The godly rejoice when the Gospel is widely spread, many come to faith, and Christ's Kingdom is increased in this way.      Martin Luther