

WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.oursaviour.ca

To all who know God and all who seek God, to those who are curious, and those steeped in the Christian tradition, to neighbours and strangers, to all who thirst for the water of life, we open wide our doors and bid you welcome.

We celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday. This is the Sacrament, in which Christ is present, in bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and as a foretaste of the feast yet to come. All are welcome at the Lord's Table.



Phone: 604.270.0085 Email: office@oursaviour.ca

Address: 6340 No 4 Road, Richmond, BC. V6Y 2S9

Pastor Christoph Reiners: pastor@oursaviour.ca

Pastoral Emergencies: 778.685.0299

YouTube: Our Saviour Lutheran Church Richmond BC

**Welcome to the Worship Service for October 22, 2023
Reformation Sunday**

We acknowledge with gratitude that we live and worship on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Hən̓q̓əmi̓nəm̓ speaking people of the xwməθkwəy̓əm [Musqueam] Nation.

PRELUDE

Page numbers are found on the bottom of a page, hymn numbers are found on the top of a page. P=Pastor C=Congregation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING CHANT (♪ ELW 822) Oh, Sing to the Lord verse 3

- 3 So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us put aside all boasting and pride and remember that we are sinners and fall short of the glory of God.

**Lord of all,
the demands of your righteousness
are too hard for us to fulfill alone.**

**This becomes our excuse
to ignore your demands.**

We know that you forgive our iniquity and remember our sin no more,

**but we abuse this freedom
as if it were a license to selfishness,
self-indulgence, and self-righteousness.**

You give us the gift of grace: atonement through the cross of your Son.

Without honest and serious repentance we cheapen your precious gift.

We are your people, but do we know you as our God?

Forgive us Lord, the sins we know in our heart.

Save us Lord, from the sins we hide even from ourselves.

~ a brief silence for reflection and self-examination ~

God our refuge and strength, have mercy on us, and put your law within us and write it on our hearts.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit God renews our spirit.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 513 *Listen, God is Calling*

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 *pg. 165*

HYMN OF PRAISE *This is the Feast* *pg. 169*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

THE WORD

FIRST READING: **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

PSALM: **Psalm 46** (page 8 of the bulletin)

SECOND READING: **Romans 3:19-28**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the eighth chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: pg. 171

GOSPEL: **John 8:31-36**

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ

MUSIC MEDITATION *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY 729 *The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

APOSTLES' CREED pg. 105

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING HYMN *The offering plate is located to the right of the double doors as you enter the sanctuary. You may also give by pre-authorized remittance. Forms are available from the office.*

814 *Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am*

THE MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING :

*The Lord be with you. **And also 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

SANCTUS pg. 173

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER pg. 173

LAMB OF GOD pg. 174

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

ACS 1035 *Though the Earth Shall Change*
(last page of bulletin)

764 *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

SENDING SONG 505 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Thank you to today's assistants

Greeter: tba, Usher: Rosa S, Reader: Marilyn S, Communion
Assistant: Ron V, Communion setup: Marion E, Organist: Bev K,
Choir Director: Alex G, Media: Deo S & Jordan P

The 2023 flowers in the chancel are given by the Santos family to
the glory of God, and in thanksgiving for Christian's birthday.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wed 01 November readers 9:30 am Fireside Room
Sat 04 November Men's Breakfast at Denny's
Sun 05 November 10:00 am worship service

We pray for those experiencing the blessings and burdens of

age: Virgie C, Sheri D, Greg M, Roxanne M, Margaret S, Irene S, Lorraine S. Edita W.

We ask God for strength and healing for:

Terri and Trevor B, Tanya B, Ferris B, Christine C, Gladys C, Heidi C, Lynn C, Charlotte G, Vidya G, Bev K, Mike M, Colleen M, Christine M, Pam M, Bradley O, Monte P, Art P, George P, Leif P, Gerry P, Christian S, Mackenzie S, Marilyn S, Dorothy S, Betty S, Merri V, Chelsea, Morgan, Rachpal, and Maria.

All Saints Sunday is next Sunday. Please bring a picture of a loved one to place on our altar steps and please e-mail us names of loved ones you want included in our prayers.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the Humanitarian Coalition are responding to the humanitarian emergency unfolding in Gaza. Please join us in prayer and consider making a gift to provide critical life-saving aid to those affected. To find out more or to donate, please visit clwr.org/gaza or call 1-800-661-2597 (Mon-Fri 8:30am-4pm CST).

How to find our services on YouTube: Enter Our Saviour Lutheran Church Richmond BC into the search bar. On the menu below our name and logo, go to “Live” and you will then find all services in chronological order. Only pre-recorded services and events can be found under “Videos”.

Gifts of Service volunteers needed!!

Please consider volunteering to be a greeter, usher, offering counter, worship assistant, musicians, media, lawn cutter. Your name can easily be added to the ongoing list. Contact the office or Marion E to volunteer.

Kindly remember:

For the sake of others: If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms (fever/chills, headaches, muscle pain, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, upset stomach), or know that you have spent time with a person who does, please remain home and monitor your condition. Thank you!

Introduction to TODAY'S READINGS

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! Acknowledging our division, we pray for unity. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

PSALM: Psalm 46

*The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
(Ps. 46:7)*

¹ God is our ref- | uge 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 cit- | y 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. R**

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 up- | on 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. R

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and the other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

October 29, 2023 – REFORMATION SUNDAY

Free Indeed

The beginning of today's reading from John places the gospel at the heart of Christian discipleship: "If you continue in my word," Jesus says, "you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Today many congregations will observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, begun by a small-town German monk and university professor named Martin Luther. Luther was deeply concerned about the concept of truth and searched the scriptures diligently, looking for facts and certainty about the grace of God. What he found caught him by surprise. During Luther's time people were given the impression that good works and sincere hearts earned the love and forgiveness of God. But Luther read the Bible for himself and found that Jesus' love and forgiveness come without strings attached. This simple rediscovery sent shock waves through the church.

Jesus himself is the truth, and Jesus is the Son who sets every one of us free—free from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Our gathering for worship brings us into direct encounter with this

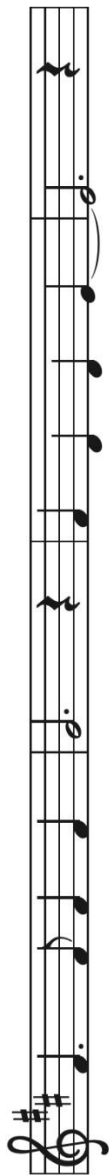
truth-telling, life-giving word. We encounter this word in scripture reading, preaching, and song. Most of all, we encounter Jesus, the Word of God, the Word made flesh. All of our other understandings of the word spring from our understanding of Jesus as God's Word to us.

God has a profound and deep desire to be revealed to us. God wants to communicate with us, to let us know we are loved, claimed, valued, blessed, and called. God also makes it clear that we are called to repent, turning from sin to live for God alone. Jesus himself directly and clearly reveals the fullness of God with us. This is the good news, the truth, that makes us free—free indeed!

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2016 Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.



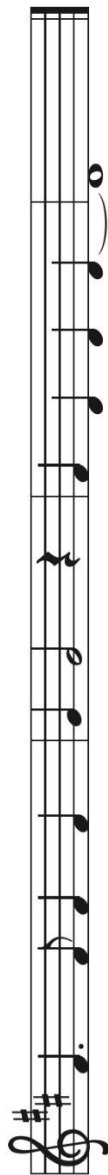
Though the earth shall change, though the mountains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.