Welcome to Worship

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026 | 9:30am

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Welcoming in *Christ.*
Growing in *Faith.*
Responding in *Love* and *Service.*

BLC Website

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GATHERING

PRELUDE *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* Helmut Walcha

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C **Amen.**

P Confident that God shows mercy,

let us admit our sin and name it in the presence of God and one another.

P Compassionate God,
C we confess it is hard to be good all the time and in every place.
The plants, rivers, sky, and soil groan from overuse.
Our relationships are strained.
We have become indifferent, tired of the cry for justice.
We are divided and find it difficult to love one another.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and bring us back to one another.
Renew us, so we can live as your people,
following the way of Jesus and becoming love for the world.
Amen.

P Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ.
We are not condemned,
but instead forgiven and offered the promise of new life.
Receive freely this gift of healing grace.
C Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Come Now is the Time To Worship*

Brian Doerksen

Chorus
Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship.
Come just as you are before your God.
Come. [*Repeat]*

1. One day, every tongue
   will confess You are God.
   One day, every knee will bow.
   Still the greatest treasure remains
   for those who gladly choose You now.

Chorus
Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship.
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

2. Willingly we choose to surrender our lives.
   Willingly our knees will bow.
   With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength
   we gladly choose You now.

Chorus
Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are to worship.
Come just as you are before your God.
Come.

Come… come… come…

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C **Gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them 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.**

WORD

READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

A *Today's reading is from the book of Jeremiah, chapter 31.*

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.

PSALM *(read responsively)* Psalm 46

A 1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

C **2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,**
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

A 3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

C **4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**
the holy habitation of the Most High.

A 5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

C **6 The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;**
he utters his voice; the earth melts.

A 7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

C **8 Come, behold the works of the Lord;**
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

A 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

C **10 "Be still, and know that I am God!**
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth."

A 11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.* C
Glory to you, O Lord.

P 31 Then 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." 33 They 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'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

P The Gospel of the Lord. C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Amy

SERMON Pastor Amy

HYMN OF THE DAY *One Thing Remains (Your love Never Fails)*
Jeremy Riddle

1. Higher than the mountains that I face.
   Stronger than the power of the grave.
   Constant in the trial and the change.
   One thing remains, One thing remains. (*repeat vs. 1*)

Chorus
Your love never fails, It never gives up,
Never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, It never gives up,
Never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, It never gives up,
Never runs out on me. Your love,

2. On and on and on and on it goes.
   It overwhelms and satisfies my soul.
   And I never, ever have to be afraid.
   One thing remains, One thing remains. (*Chorus*)

Bridge
In death, in life, I'm confident and covered by the power of Your great love.
My debt is paid; there's nothing that can separate my heart from Your great love. (*repeat Bridge*)

Chorus
Your love never fails, It never gives up,
Never runs out on me.
Your love never fails, It never gives up,
Never runs out on me.

Your love never fails, It never gives up,
Never runs out on me. Your love,

Bridge
In death, in life, I'm confident and covered by the power of Your great love.
My debt is paid; there's nothing that can separate my heart from Your great love.

3. Higher than the mountains that I face.
   Stronger than the power of the grave.
   Constant in the trial and the change.
   One thing remains, One thing remains,
   Your Love.

PRAYER SONG *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* W&P 91

On bended knee, with needy hearts,
we come and pray.
Lord, listen to your children.
With willing hearts and open arms,
we come and pray.
Lord, listen to your children.
With simple words of heartfelt thanks, we come.
Believing in your promises, we come.
On bended knee, with needy hearts,
we come and pray.
Lord, listen to your children,
listen to your children.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

A As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Give us the courage to keep growing, changing, and renewing your church in our time. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A We pray for places in nature that have been damaged by pollution and greed. Help us restore the earth, so every living creature has clean air, safe water, and a healthy place to live. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A We pray for everyone whose life is touched by the criminal justice system. Give wisdom and compassion to police officers, probation officers, judges, and attorneys. Stay close to people in prison, and walk with those rebuilding their lives after incarceration. Give them courage and peace. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A We pray for everyone who has been hurt by the church or its leaders. Bring the truth into the light, make room for healing, and hold close those who carry this pain. We also pray for all who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A We thank you for everyone who is discovering faith or finding their way back to it. Walk beside them, guide them gently, and fill them with hope. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A At this time, the congregation is invited to share their own prayers either out loud or silently in their hearts**.**

Pastor Amy will conclude

P With grateful hearts, we remember the faithful people who showed us the way and all those we love who have died. Keep their memory close to us. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P God, we trust in your endless grace. We bring you the prayers we have spoken and the ones we hold quietly in our hearts, knowing you receive them with love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

REPEAT PRAYER SONG

On bended knee, with needy hearts,
we come and pray.
Lord, listen to your children.
With willing hearts and open arms,
we come and pray.
Lord, listen to your children.
With simple words of heartfelt thanks, we come.
Believing in your promises, we come.
On bended knee, with needy hearts, we come and pray.
Lord, listen to your children, listen to your children.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING MUSIC *No Turning Back* *Scott Soper*
Chapel Choir/Bridge of Harmony

OFFERING SONG *A Mighty Fortress is Our God (vs. 4)* ELW 505

God's Word shall stand above the powers,
shall end all their thanksgiving.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
for God with us is living.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
though all of these be gone,
they yet have nothing won.
The kingdom's our forever!

OFFERING PRAYER

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER ELW p. 134

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN *Mighty To Save* *Reuben Morgan*

1. Everyone needs compassion
   Love that's never failing.
   Let mercy fall on me.
   Ev'ryone needs forgiveness,
   The kindness of a Saviour.
   The hope of nations.

Chorus

Saviour He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save.
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave.
Jesus conquered the grave.

2. So take me as You find me,
   All my fears and failures.
   Fill my life again.
   I give my life to follow
   Everything I believe in.
   Now I surrender.

Chorus

Saviour, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save.
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave.
Jesus conquered the grave.

Bridge

Shine your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King.
Jesus.
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King.

Chorus

Saviour, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save.
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave.
Jesus conquered the grave.

Saviour, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save.
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave.
Jesus conquered the grave.

Bridge

Shine your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King.
Jesus,
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King.

Shine your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King
Jesus.
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King.

DISMISSAL A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Mighty to Save*

Acknowledgments

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