

# St. John's Lutheran Church Belleville, PA



Reformation Sunday  
October 29, 2023

## **PRELUDE WELCOME**

This is Reformation Sunday, the day chosen to remember Martin Luther and the affirmation of a religion that is reformed and always reforming through God's grace. Today we sing Luther's hymns declaring God's providence and, at the request of many, prayer songs we have learned declaring the healing and peace that Christ brings.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**


\* HYMN ~ *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

# 229

229

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*



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



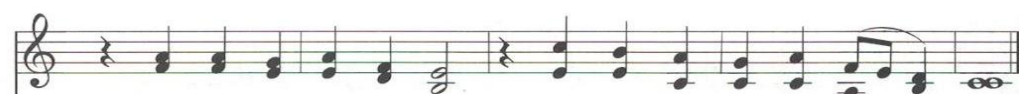
to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And  
 ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, Whom  
 vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They  
 fear it; For God him - self fights by our side With



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,



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!

**\*CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

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

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,

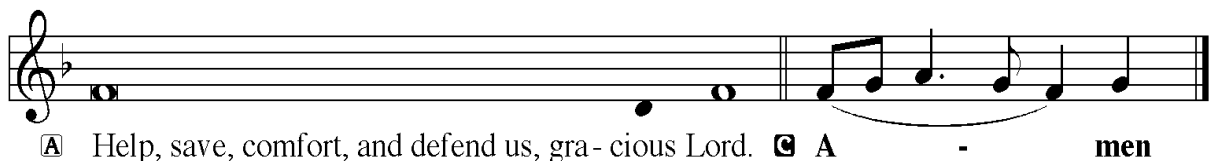
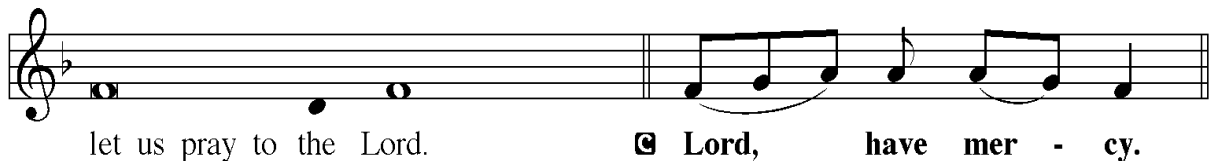
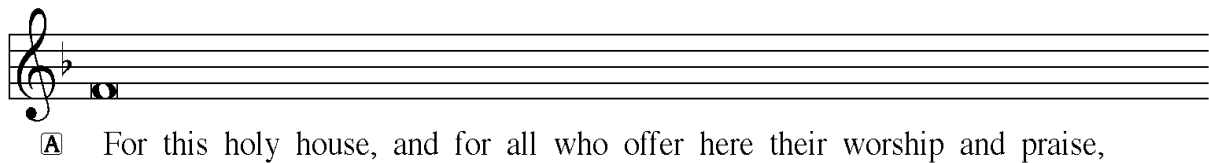
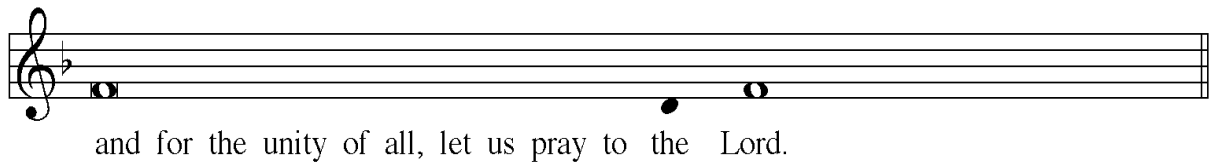
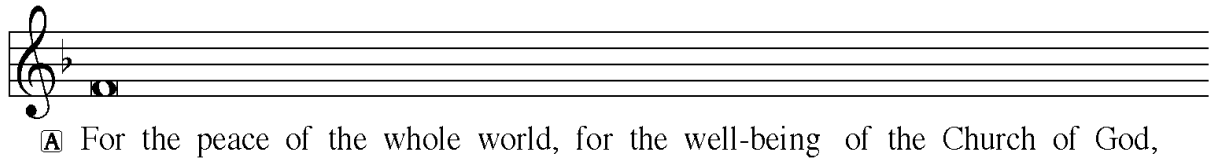
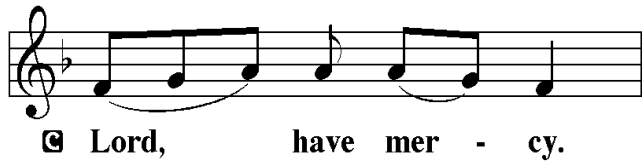
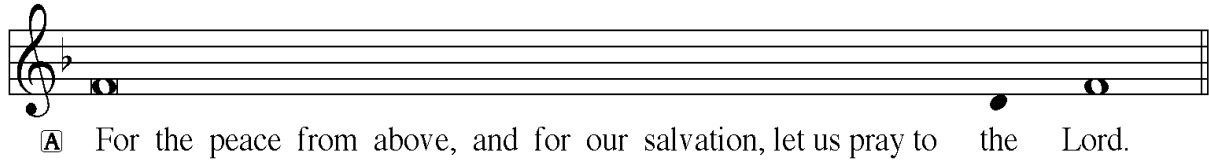
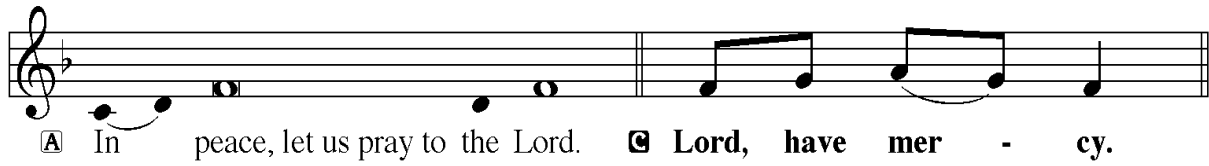
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. 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.

C **Amen**

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.**

**\*KYRIE**

**\*HYMN of PRAISE**

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was  
 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.  
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and  
 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.  
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and  
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and  
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Continued on next page*

**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **II** For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.  
**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

**\*PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)**

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al-so with you.

**P** Let us pray...

**C** Almighty God, 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.

**LESSONS**

First Lesson ~ A reading from Jeremiah 31:31-34

*after the reading*

R The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**Psalm 46 ~ *with response*

Second Lesson ~ A reading from Romans 3:19-28

*after the reading*

R The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.****\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to John the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*The Gospel is read. After the reading*

P The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.



## MESSAGE

HYMN ~ *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

# 230

## Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word 230

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with some words aligned under specific notes. The first system covers the first line of the hymn, the second system covers the second and third lines, and the third system covers the final line. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C).

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  
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend your ho - ly Church, that  
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to nought all he has done.  
 we May sing your praise tri - um - phant - ly.  
 strife And lead us out of death to life.



**\*NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and 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 of God, Light of Light, true God from true God, Begotten, not made, of one being with the Father, through him all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; and He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He shall come again in glory to judge both 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. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ *See Celebrate***

P Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

**HEAL US NOW** (repeat entire song 3 or more times)

Heal us, heal us, heal us now

Show us, show us, show us how.

**\*PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

**OFFERING** ~ you may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end of the front and back pews.

**\*OFFERTORY**

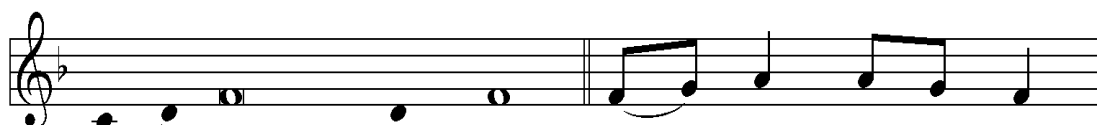
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble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

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

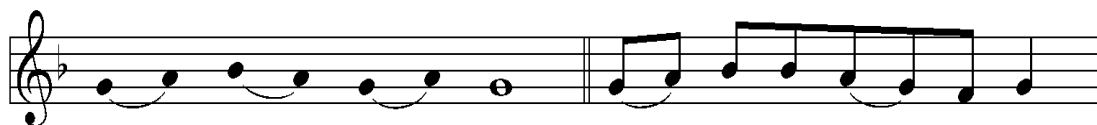
P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given  
us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your  
gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered  
himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

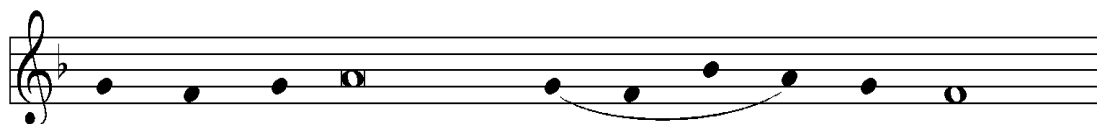
Amen

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

**\*PREFACE**

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav - en 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 who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

**ALTAR SONG** (instrumental one time then congregation together)

All my heart  
Oh, All my heart  
All my heart, I bring to you  
I bring to you

All my tears  
Oh, All my tears  
All my tears, I give to you  
I give to you

All my joy  
Oh, all my joy  
All my joy, I bring to you  
I bring to you

All I am  
Oh, all I am.  
All I am, I give to you  
I give to you

**Invitation to Communion:**

P Partake of the banquet, for all is now ready, taste and see that the Lord is good.

P The Bread of Life: the body of Christ, given for you;

**C Amen.**

P The Cup of the Covenant: the blood of Christ, shed for you.

**C Amen.**

*After Communion*

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen**

**\*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**

☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you refresh us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**WE GIVE YOU BACK** (repeat as led)

Leader: I give you back to Holy Love, I give you back to Holy Love

I give you back to Holy Love, I give you back to Holy Love

**Congregation:** We give you back to Holy Love, We give you back to Holy Love

We give you back to Holy Love, We give you back to Holy Love

**\*THE BLESSING**

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**

**ALL THINGS SHALL BE WELL** words from Julian of Norwich

(Pastor sings this blessing)

All things shall be well

and all things shall be well

Oh all things shall be well my friend,

Be well, my friends, be well.

**\*HYMN ~ Amazing Grace**

# 448

**Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 448**

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has four vocal parts with lyrics: '1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That', '2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And', '3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I', '4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; His'. The second system has four vocal parts with lyrics: 'saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but', 'grace my fears re-lieved; How pre - cious did that', 'have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me', 'Word my hope se- cures; He will my shield and'. The third system has four vocal parts with lyrics: 'now am found; Was blind, but now I see.', 'grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!', 'safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.', 'por - tion be As long as life en - dures.' The piano accompaniment is in the right hand, and the vocal parts are in the left hand. Chord symbols are placed above the piano part: F, Dm, Bb, F, Dm, F, Am, F, Bb, F, Dm, F, C7, F.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807  
 Tune: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

NEW BRITAIN  
 CM

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

**R** Thanks be to God

**POSTLUDE**



**Pastor:** Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

**Music Ministry:** Seulki Susie Yoo

**Today ~ Reformation**

**Greeter:** Jami Zook; **Lay Reader:** Jami Zook

**Altar Care:** Carol Fultz; **Sound:** Ed Bilich

**Next Sunday, November 5**

**Greeter:** Volunteer Needed; **Lay Reader:** Volunteer Needed

**Altar Care:** Joy Byler; **Sound:** Ed Bilich

**Church Office:** 935-2032; **Email us at** [secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)

**St. John's Christian Day Care:** 935-2959

***Our Mission Statement***

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share  
the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another  
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

***Our Vision Statement***

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community  
through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Buck and Sandra Metz in honor of their church family.

Please remember in prayer ~ Erica Hargenrader, Fred Miller and Buck Metz  
(both Fred and Buck are now at home), Sarah Robertson (neck surgery, Pastor's  
niece), Miriam Williamson, Anne Peachey, Desa Keiser, Elliana Byler, Kyung Sun  
Yim, Bob Treaster, Samantha Smith, members ~ Joyce Stuck (Greenwood  
Village), Betty Harmon (Celebration Villa) and Don Wolfe (VVH).

**FROM the PASTOR**

For those of you who may view this bulletin prior to Sunday, Pastor Ela will  
be celebrating communion at Valley View on Saturday, October 28 at 2pm in the  
Terrace Recreation room. Lisa Griffith will be singing. Come join in the  
fellowship.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**REMINDER ~ our worship service will begin at 9:00am, effective next Sunday.**

**Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday.** Please remember to set your clocks back one hour.

The November newsletter can be found in the mailboxes of those persons who do not receive it by email.

West Kish is not participating in the Advent devotional this year, but council would still like to move forward with this project, so volunteers are needed to fill the 7 additional dates. Please consider writing a meditation. A sign-up sheet along with scripture readings can be found in the narthex.

The Social Ministry committee is collecting items for the Shelter Service. Non-perishables food items (canned and boxed), toiletries for men, women and children, and twin sheets new or gently used.

You may place your donations on the table in the narthex.

The Mission Committee is collecting items to fill shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Boxes have been placed in the narthex and restroom areas for anyone who would like to participate. **Monetary donations are also needed to help cover the \$10/box shipping cost.**

You can fill your own shoebox or whatever you choose to donate will be combined with other donations. A list of recommended toys and other items can be found in the narthex.

**Donations will be accepted through Monday, November 6.**

The Gift Show is being held on November 24 and 25. A sign-up to pre-order wreaths along with donations of homemade soups and baked goods can be found in the narthex. More detailed information is included in the November newsletter,

January 1 thru October 26, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 28      Offering ~ \$1,000.00

Income \$ 198,996.30   Expense \$ 206,060.37

Net Income \$ -7,064.07

Daycare ~ Income \$ 262,116.90   Expense \$ 283,267.32

Net Income \$ -21,150.42