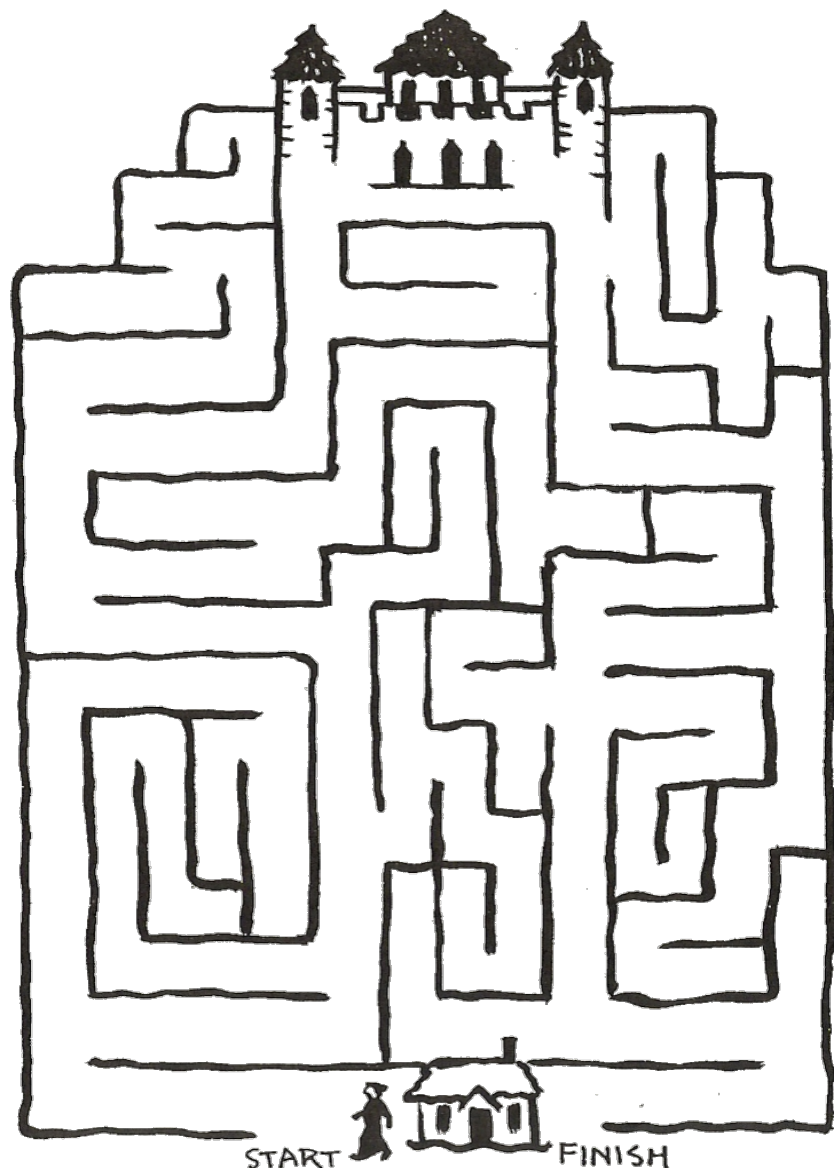
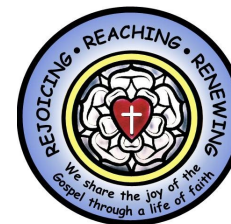




### Lift high the cross

Martin Luther believed following Jesus was a way of life.

Follow Luther to the Wittenberg castle and back home again to find an important reminder of Jesus.



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

[www.zionalbion.org](http://www.zionalbion.org) + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

### October 25, 2026 ✚ Reformation Sunday

*Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.*

### ✚ GATHERING ✚

#### Prelude

*(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)*

#### Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





## Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

When we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

**But if we would confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,  
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Today God calls us to look at the faith he has given us by grace.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We prefer to boast of our faith  
and seek to impress you and each other  
with the pretense of fine moral living.**

**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.**

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

He has placed his law on our hearts and minds  
and declared us right with him.

That truth sets us free to walk in his ways.

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 the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## The 95 Theses — Martin Luther

N N U O Y C H O E I U A L V C U W M R C  
Q E G M Y L X Q P J W U I I V I G S I S  
T D V W A Z F C O O U K D X O N R L S S  
I E E E R R I O R L W R R A V D B C C E  
P V L X S M T D U O H O K G D U R H F N  
J E Q H E E O I E J D Q J K P L T U Q N  
V O U D P F N K N T G Q T L F G C R P E  
V F A M M M D O R L G C A C F E M C S T  
U C X O H T A A E V U R R L A N T H R T  
A Q U M J T N P T V E T U D Z C J D A O  
X T P D M S X U S N I F H B K E U O L R  
H K V Q L C R R E L C F P E N S L O O K  
Z L A A B Q Z G W F G S E S R E A R H U  
S C T P R I N T E D J P A N G Z T Q C G  
Z E W Y Q D T Q S P I Z V X O F I T S Y  
D R O M A N C A T H O L I C O E N J I R  
M S I C I T I R C L E Z T E T N H O J W  
V W K J O T B X Q J O J R L Z H Y K C B  
L D N D L N I N E T Y F I V E P X R U V  
N O I T A M R O F E R N A M R E G Q S F

ACADEMIC  
GENERAL PUBLIC  
JOHN TETZEL  
NINETY FIVE  
PRINTED  
SAXONY  
WESTERN EUROPE

CHURCH DOOR  
GERMAN REFORMATION  
LATIN  
ONE FIVE ONE SEVEN  
ROMAN CATHOLIC  
SCHOLARS  
WITTENBURG

CRITICISM  
INDULGENCES  
MARTIN LUTHER  
PAMPHLET  
ROTTENNESS  
TRANSLATED  
WORD OF MOUTH



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.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
Music: William Knapp, 1698-1768  
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## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



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## Opening Hymn

## *A Mighty Fortress*

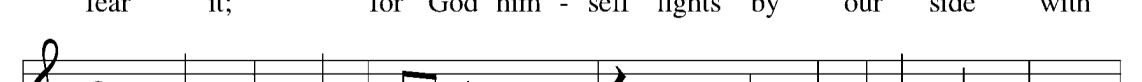
#504



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



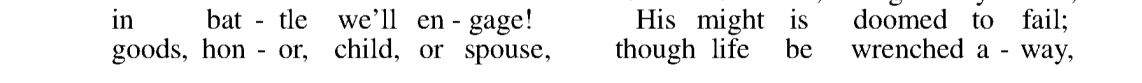
to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



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!

Text & Music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
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Music: Public Domain

Opening Litany

The testimonies of Reformers stimulated people to spread the Good News of Christ’s love.  
**Inspire us, O Lord, to share with others the power of God’s grace through our acts of forgiveness and love.**

The writings of Reformation leaders revealed parts of God’s plan once hidden in mystery.  
**Inspire us, O Lord, to continue to uncover the power of the Scriptures through prayer and devotion.**

The work of Reformation leaders brought faith into the forefront of everyday life.  
**Inspire us, O Lord, to acknowledge your powerful presence in our lives at home, at work, and at school.**

In you alone lies the power to save, O Lord.  
**In you alone lies the power to live.**

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

*Father, I Adore You*  
Father, I adore you;  
lay my life before you;  
how I love you.  
  
Jesus, I adore you;  
lay my life before you;  
how I love you.  
  
Spirit, I adore you;  
lay my life before you;  
how I love you.

*SS Choir*

Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*  
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 ✠

Announcements

Benediction

May the God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**  
  
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**  
  
And the God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn      *The Church of Christ, in Every Age*      #729

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 -

*Hymn continues on next page.*

Distribution Hymn      *Let Us Break Bread Together*      #471

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing  
sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text & Music: African American spiritual  
Public Domain

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
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Distribution Hymn      *Eat This Bread*      #472 (3x)

*Refrain*

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”

Hymn of Praise      *Sanctuary*      *Choir*

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;  
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

*I am a temple, God's holy temple, for his spirit lives in me;  
created as a sacred dwelling of the most High God!*

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;  
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

**Congregation:**  
(on cue)

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and  
ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a  
liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for you. (repeat)

Text and music: John Thompson & Randy Scruggs © 1982  
Arranged: Lloyd Larson © 2014 Hope Publishing Co.  
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**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*  
Gracious Father,  
**we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace.  
Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it;  
where in anything it is amiss, reform it;  
where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it;  
where it is divided, reunite it;  
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

**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 (Jeremiah 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.*

*A reading from Jeremiah.*

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>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**

*Let us read Psalm 46 responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

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

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

**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.**

**Agnus Dei**

**Lamb of God**

*Family 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.

**Distribution**

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

*The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.***

*The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.***

## Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Inscribing God, in Jesus your Word was made flesh.  
In your scriptures that flesh was made word.  
In your church and your kingdom that word is made flesh again.  
By the power of your Holy Spirit  
bring your scriptural promises to fulfillment  
in your people gathered in your name today.

By that same Spirit, sanctify this bread and this cup,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

*Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.*

After supper, Jesus took the cup.  
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
*Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Inspiring God, you give us your scriptures  
for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness,  
and for building us up in service to you and your world.

Open your children's hearts  
each time your church opens your Word of life.

Send your Spirit upon evangelists, teachers, preachers, and healers,  
that the wind and fire of Pentecost  
may thrill and transform your people today.

Make your Son's disciples feel their hearts burning within them  
as you speak with them and they find their story in your story;  
until the day you draw us into your Book of Life,  
and we are gathered between the covers of your glory,  
ever one God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
**the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

## Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and 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.*

*A reading from Romans.*

<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 silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom 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; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>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.**

Gospel Verse

God's Word is Our Great Heritage

#509

God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;  
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.  
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while  
time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861-1925, alt.  
Music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546  
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Holy 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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>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’?”

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

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

Proper Preface

Storytelling God,  
you had too much love within your Trinity to keep it to yourself,  
and so you made a universe in which to bring forth the earth,  
and an earth in which to raise up a people,  
and a people in which to come among us in your Son,  
that we may know your purpose  
never to be except to be with us in him forever.  
Through patriarchs and prophets, through women of courage and kings,  
through the redemption of failure  
and the transformation of faithlessness  
you embodied your relentless will to abide with us.  
In the death and resurrection of your Son and the sending of your Spirit  
you turned your covenant with your people  
into an invitation to all the world.  
And so we thank and praise you, with the angels and archangels,  
singing your song of glory.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Family of God

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, Sing  
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -  
ty! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is he who  
comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the  
high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

## ✚ OFFERING ✚

### Offering Response

*Family of God*

1. Your vine - yards, O the Lord, may and they  
(2.) gath - er the hopes may and the

bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your  
dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these

bles - ing, we pray. And gath - er a har - vest from  
of - f'rings we bring. Pre - side at our ta - ble, and

what you have sown, That we may be fed with the  
grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - ised

1. bread of life. 2. Now  
feast to life. 2. Now come. A - men.

## ✚ 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.



**Holy Communion**

## Children's Time Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

### *Reforming God*

(Tune: WOV #778)

1. Re - form - ing God, for - give your Chur - ch's strug - gles  
2. Re - form - ing God, the change you bring will chal - lenge  
3. Re - form - ing God, trans - form our in - ner be - ing--

to wor - ship Christ, our Sav - ior, with one voice;  
our hopes and dreams, our hab - its and our ways;  
en - rich our faith, and build our hope in you.

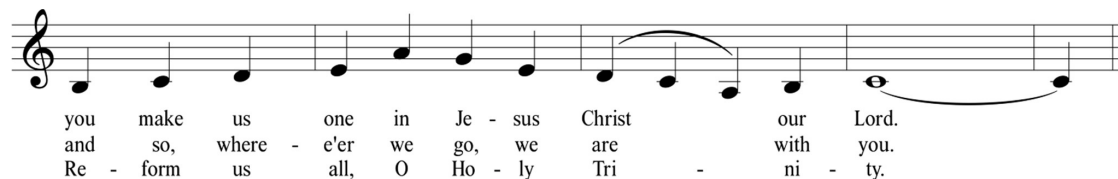
for - give our man - y self - in - flict - ed trou - bles,  
and as your Spir - it guides us on your mis - sion,  
Re - form - ing God, trans - form our way of see - ing

through which we ar - gue rath - er than re - joice.  
we'll have to leave be - hind the good old days.  
the paths through which your world might be re - newed.

For you, O God, give grace be - yond all mea - sure;  
For you, O God, cre - a - tion's bril - liant auth - or,  
Re - form - ing God, trans - form your Church and send us

the Ho - ly Spir - it's gifts on us are poured,  
are in - to ways the work - ing, mak - ing all things new.  
in - to the world to bap - tize and things to teach.

as by your Word, your prom - ise, joined with wa - ter,  
We are your chil - dren, O great heav'n - ly Fath - er,  
Trans - form us al - ways, shape us for your pur - pose;



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 Music: Irish tune, arr. John Barnard, b. 1948  
 Public Domain

## Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**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 into hell.**

**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 the People

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

*A brief silence.*

A 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.  
 Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P 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.**

A 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.  
 Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We ask your blessing upon all people  
 who have been harmed by the church and its leaders,  
 that the truth may make them free.  
 We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering,  
 especially...  
 Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A 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.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.  
 Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

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

## Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**