



# TRINITY CHURCH

— KIRKWOOD —

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

October 31, 2021  
Reformation Day

# WORSHIPING THE GOD OF JUSTIFYING GRACE

**Liturgist:** Rev. Ben Tharp

**Scripture Reader:** Beth Thorpe

**Pastoral Prayer:** Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

## Quotes and Reflections

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8-9

“We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”

— Martin Luther

“A man will be justified by faith when, excluded from righteousness of works, he by faith lays hold of the righteousness of Christ, and clothed in it, appears in the sight of God not as a sinner, but as righteous...” — John Calvin

“Christ, having sacrificed himself once, is to eternity a certain and valid sacrifice for the sins of all the faithful.” — Ulrich Zwingli

“But faith is not belief in the history of Christ, as the godless think, but belief in the purpose of Christ’s incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection. For he took on flesh, was crucified, and rose from the dead in order to justify all who would believe in him.” — Philip Melancthon

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## WE READY OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

“Preparation for Worship: What is Reformation Day?” By Stephen Nichols

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/what-is-reformation-day>

A single event on a single day changed the world. It was October 31, 1517. Brother Martin, a monk and a scholar, had struggled for years with his church, the church in Rome. He had been greatly disturbed by an unprecedented indulgence sale. The story has all the makings of a Hollywood blockbuster. Let’s meet the cast.

First, there is the young bishop—too young by church laws—Albert of Mainz. Not only was he bishop over two bishoprics, he desired an additional archbishopric over Mainz. This, too, was against church laws. So, Albert appealed to the pope in Rome, Leo X. From the De Medici family, Leo X greedily allowed his tastes to exceed his financial resources. Enter the artists and sculptors, Raphael and Michelangelo.

When Albert of Mainz appealed for a papal dispensation, Leo X was ready to deal. Albert, with the papal blessing, would sell indulgences for past, present, and future sins. All of this sickened the monk, Martin Luther. Can we buy our way into heaven? Luther had to speak out.

But why October 31? November 1 held a special place in the church calendar as All Saints' Day. On November 1, 1517, a massive exhibit of newly acquired relics would be on display at Wittenberg, Luther's home city. Pilgrims would come from all over, genuflect before the relics, and take hundreds, if not thousands, of years off time in purgatory. Luther's soul grew even more vexed. None of this seemed right.

Martin Luther, a scholar, took quill in hand, dipped it in his inkwell and penned his Ninety-Five Theses on October 31, 1517. These were intended to spark a debate, to stir some soul-searching among his fellow brothers in the church. The Ninety-Five Theses sparked far more than a debate. The Ninety-Five Theses also revealed the church was far beyond rehabilitation. It needed a reformation. The church—and the world—would never be the same.

One of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses simply declares, "The Church's true treasure is the gospel of Jesus Christ." That alone is the meaning of Reformation Day. The church had lost sight of the gospel because it had long ago papered over the pages of God's Word with layer upon layer of tradition. Mere tradition often brings about systems of works, of earning your way back to God. It was true of the Pharisees, and it was true of medieval Roman Catholicism. Didn't Christ Himself say, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light"? Reformation Day celebrates the joyful beauty of the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ.

What is Reformation Day? It is the day the light of the gospel broke forth out of darkness. It was the day that began the Protestant Reformation. It was a day that led to Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, and many other Reformers helping the church find its way back to God's Word as the only supreme authority for faith and life and leading the church back to the glorious doctrines of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. It kindled the fires of missionary endeavors, it led to hymn writing and congregational singing, and it led to the centrality of the sermon and preaching for the people of God. It is the celebration of a theological, ecclesiastical, and cultural transformation.

So, we celebrate Reformation Day. This day reminds us to be thankful for our past and to the monk turned Reformer. What's more, this day reminds us of our duty, our obligation, to keep the light of the gospel at the center of all we do.

## Ministry Moment

Rebecca Giles

## Song of Preparation

*Be Still, My Soul*  
Trinity Hymnal #689

## Call to Worship—Psalm 46 (selected)

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

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

Leader: though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

**People: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Leader: “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

**All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

## WE DECLARE THE ETERNAL WORTHINESS OF GOD

**\*Songs of Adoration**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Trinity Hymnal #92

# Behold Our God

Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, and Stephen Altrogge. Arr. by Joe Brownlee

$\text{♩} = 1/3$  C **VERSE** Em C Em

1. Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
 2. Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of His words?  
 3. Who has felt the nails upon His hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man?

5 C Em C

Kings and nations tremble at his voice. All creation  
 Who can teach the One who knows all things? Who can fathom  
 God eternal, humbled to the grave, Jesus, Savior,

8 Em7 G **CHORUS** C G/B Am F

ris-es to re-joice. Be-hold our God, seat-ed on His throne. Come, let us a-  
 all his won-drous deeds? ris-en now to reign!

13 C G C G/B Am F C G C

dore Him. Be-hold our King, noth-ing can com- pare, come, let us a- dore Him!

19 Em C Em | 2. F2 Em F2 G | 3. C **FINE**

Him!

Him!

C **BRIDGE** F/C C F/C Am7

Men: You will reign for - ev er. You will reign for - ev er. You will reign for -  
 Women: Let Your glo - ry fill the earth. Let Your glo - ry fill the earth. Let Your

F Am7 F

ev - er. You will reign for - ev - er. You will reign for - ev - er.  
 glo - ry fill the earth. Let Your glo - ry fill the earth.

C F Am7 F **DS**

You will reign for - ev - er. You will reign for - ev - er. Be  
 Let Your glo - ry fill the earth. Let Your glo - ry fill,

## \*Prayer of Adoration

# WE HEAR FROM GOD'S WORD

## New Testament Reading—Romans 8:26-39

*The Grace and Mercy of God for Sinners Like Us*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of  
the Lord stands forever!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

# WE CONFESS OUR UTTER UNWORTHINESS BEFORE GOD

## **Call to Confession—Psalm 51:1-3**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

## **Silent Confession and Lament**

# WE ENCOUNTER AND REJOICE IN THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD

## **Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace—Ps. 51:16-17**

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to God for His enduring mercies!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Leader: Now may the peace of Christ be with you all!

**People: And also with you!**

# \*Song of Rejoicing

## Thy Mercy My God Is the Theme of My Song

Sandra McCracken

D G

1. Thy mer - cy my God is the theme\_\_ of my\_\_ song\_\_ the  
 out thy sweet mer - cy I could\_\_ not live here;\_\_\_\_\_  
 mer - cy is more than a match\_\_ for my heart\_\_ which  
 fath - er of mer - cies thy good - ness I own and the

3 B G A E D/F#

joy of my heart and the boast\_\_ of my tongue thy free grace a - lone from the first  
 Sin would re - duce me to ut - ter des - pair; but through thy free good - ness my spir -  
 won - ders to feel its own hard - ness de - part; dis - solved by thy good - ness I fall  
 cov - e - nant love of thy cruc - i - fied son; all praise to the spi - rit whose whis

6 G E G A

— to the last hath won my af - fec - tions and bound\_\_ my\_\_ soul fast  
 its re - vive and he that first made me still keeps\_\_ me\_\_ a - live.  
 — to the ground and weep for the praise of the mer - cy\_\_ I've found.  
 - per di - vine seals mer - cy and par - don and right - eous - ness

11 4. D E D/F# G G#

2. With mine. All praise to the spir - it whose whis - per di vine\_\_ seals  
 3. Thy  
 4. Great

17 E G A

mer - cy and par don and right - eous - ness mine.



# WE HUMBLE OURSELVES BEFORE THE LORD

## Pastoral Prayer

## Tithes and Offerings

(Children's Church does not meet on the 5th Sunday of the month)

## Offertory Song (Ensemble)

*Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)*

Shane Barnard, Josh Miller, Jennie Lee Riddle, and Josiah Warneking

## **Sermon**

"A Heart Aflame"

Romans 8:31-32

A Special Sermon on the Occasion of Reformation Day

Rev. Dr. Chris Polski

For today's sermon outline scan here with your phone camera:



**\*Song of Response**

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

Trinity Hymnal #455

**\*Benediction**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday school classes for all ages** meet today at 11am. Children Pre-K-2nd grade meet in the Pre-K/K room. Grades 3rd-5th meet in the 3-5th classroom.

**Sign up for a Small Group!** Sign up sheets are in the Narthex or go to groups in Church Center.

### **Interested in becoming a member of Trinity?**

Join us for our new members Sunday school class, Trinity Connect, in the fireplace room.

**Men's Bible Study:** The men will have the option of attending on Wed. evenings at 6pm or Friday mornings at 6:30am. Pastor Polski is leading a study on the Book of Acts.

**Men's Night this Wed.** at 7:30pm at Chris Freeman's.

**Ladies,** join us on Friday, Nov. 5th at 7pm at Trinity for a **Paint Party**. Julie Hammond will take us step by step to make our own beautiful piece of artwork. \$10 will cover supplies and you will go home with your own masterpiece. Sign up on Church Center.

**Women's Bible Studies:** We offer two options- Two Tues. a month a group meets at Melissa Jorgensen's home at 7pm to discuss the Sermon on the Mount (10/26). On Wednesdays we meet at Trinity for a study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians either at 9am or 6pm.

Save the Date: Our **Christmas Craft Party** for ages 4yrs thru 5th grade is coming back on Sat., Dec. 4th from 9am-12:15pm! We will have a very **brief meeting (10 min. tops) TODAY after SS in the fireplace room for those interested in learning more about ways to volunteer.** Volunteer sign ups will also begin this Sun.

**Life Line Screening** will be at Trinity on Thurs., Nov. 4th. If you would like more information on these tests that identify risks of stroke or cardiovascular disease, or to register, see the flyers on the welcome table.

If you do not receive our **weekly email updates** on Tuesday mornings, please send your email address to [amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org](mailto:amymitchell@trinitystlouis.org).

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There are **several easy ways to serve at Trinity**. Feel free to reach out to these ministry coordinators to get involved: **Ushers:** Paul Schaffer ([PaulSchaffer1012@gmail.com](mailto:PaulSchaffer1012@gmail.com)), **Children's Church:** Melissa Kocher ([medcalf.melissa@gmail.com](mailto:medcalf.melissa@gmail.com)), **Greeters:** Elisa Tharp ([elisa.f.tharp@gmail.com](mailto:elisa.f.tharp@gmail.com)), **Nursery:** Sarah Oehlerking, Deborah Moen, Alyssa Hall, and Ruth Harlow ([nursery@trinitystlouis.org](mailto:nursery@trinitystlouis.org)).

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Did you know you can use the **Church Center app** for online giving, church directory, to sign up for events, connect with your small groups, bible studies, etc? Contact the church office for assistance.

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You can **sign up for all upcoming events** by scanning your phone camera over the QR code and then [following the link](#):



## CHRISTMAS CRAFT PARTY

Our Christmas Craft Party will take place on Sat., Dec. 4th from 9am to 12:15pm. Children ages 4yrs thru 5th grade will make gifts, sing Christmas Carols, hear a story by Pastor Polski, and enjoy lunch. Registration is limited and will close once full. Sign up will begin Nov. 1st on Church Center. Scan the QR code above.

# WELCOME

We are glad you could join us! We would love to connect with you and answer any questions you may have about Trinity. Scan below with your phone camera to leave us your contact information.



Trinity's ministries are organized around the core values in our purpose statement which reads: Trinity Church exists to **exalt** God's name, **establish** God's people, **equip** God's church and **engage** God's world, in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the sake of the Risen King, Jesus Christ.

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