

## REFORMATION SUNDAY

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

THEME: Jesus came so that we could have freedom from what weighs us down.

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING BLESSING

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

**C: Amen!**

#### BEING HONEST ABOUT OURSELVES...

P: It is important as we begin our worship to be honest about ourselves to God. Although we have been given freedom through the sacrifice of Jesus, we must begin by admitting that we have used this freedom in ways that are not pleasing to God. We instead have used our freedom to benefit our own cause. During this time of silence we reflect on the ways in which we have misused our freedom.

*(Silence for personal reflection)*

P: We confess our sins.

**C: Lord, God of our tomorrows, we confess our sinful condition before You. We desire something better than what we have and what we are. We know ourselves too well and see our human frailty. We know that our temporary gods are vulnerable and will crumble under the test. We realize that our desires are fickle and backfire on us at the worst times. God of our tomorrows, give us Your forgiveness. Let us see today the promise of something better in our lives.**

#### SONG OF FORGIVENESS "Red Book" 157      [Open Our Eyes](#)

*Open our eyes, Lord,  
We want to see Jesus  
To reach out and touch Him  
And say that we love Him.  
Open our ears, Lord,  
Help us to listen  
Open our eyes, Lord,  
We want to see Jesus.*

#### YOU ARE FORGIVEN

P: Our God is a tomorrow God, who knows our past and knows where we are headed. We trust a God who knows our needs and desires each of us come daily in prayer. As we confess our sins, God is faithful and will forgive our sin and make us clean from all unrighteousness. God always promises us something better, because of the miracle of forgiveness and love. As a called and ordained servant of God's Son Jesus, your sins have been forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are set free from what weighs you down.

**C: Amen**

## SONG OF PRAISE

## Lord I Lift Your Name On High

*Lord I lift your name on high  
Lord I love to sing your praises  
I'm so glad you're in my life  
I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth, to show the way  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave  
From the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift your name on high.  
(Repeat whole song)*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together:

**C: Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people; Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

#### [The First Lesson: Revelation 14:6-7](#)

John in his vision sees the angel proclaiming the Gospel to all people on earth.

**Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."**

#### [The Second Lesson: Romans 3:19-28](#)

In this famous Reformation passage, Paul expresses very clearly our hopeless condition under the law, and the hope we have in the Gospel, humbly giving all credit to God.

***Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.***

***But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It***

*was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

*Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.*

CHOIR ANTHEM "If Anybody Asks You"

Arranged by Mark Hayes

The Gospel Lesson: John 8:31-36

Jesus explains the spiritual freedom we receive from the truth of his Gospel.

*So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"*

*Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG "Green Book" 228 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious;  
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight, Whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; They cannot over pow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage; In battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God himself fights by our side With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house, Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away, They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!

[AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH Luther’s Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed](#)

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

[OFFERINGS](#)

The offerings gathered are a sign of our whole lives offered to God in humble gratitude for his greatest of all offerings, his Son offered for our salvation.

[THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE](#)

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God, and for all people according to their needs:

(after each prayer)

P: Lord in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

[THE LORD’S PRAYER](#)

**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 glory forever and ever. Amen.**

[CLOSING 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.**

[CLOSING SONG “Green Book” 343 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer](#)

Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
Hold me with your pow’rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven

Feed me now and ever more,  
Feed me now and ever more.

Open now the crystal fountain  
Where the healing waters flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
Shield me with your mighty arm,  
Shield me with your mighty arm,

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises,  
I will raise forever more,  
I will raise forever more,

#### DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

#### POST-SERVICE MUSIC