



## St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

*"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"*

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**Reformation Sunday**

**October 25, 2020**

*Welcome to Reformation Sunday! Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the Church must continually be reformed by the Holy Spirit 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 Holy Baptism, we pray that Christians of all traditions and expressions will unite more fully together in both worship and mission.*



**Prelude**

***Suite for Worship on Amazing Grace by Kevin Norris***

**Bells**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Most merciful God:

**We confess that we are captive 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.**

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God 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. **Amen.**

**Choir**

***God's Word Is Our Great Heritage***

## 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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## First Reading

## Jeremiah 31:31-34

<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.**

## Second Reading

**Romans 3:19-28**

<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.**

## The Holy Gospel

**John 8:31-36**

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. John:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>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.**

## Sermon

**Pastor James Dew**

## Anthem

***O Lord, We Praise You* by J. Walter arr. C. P. Stevens**



## Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation)

Merciful God, we thank you for these young people whom you have made your own by water and the Word in Holy Baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and have nourished them in this community of faith. Uphold them in the promises and responsibilities of Baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the Name of Christ. **Amen.**

*The Pastor addresses those making affirmation:*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, to reject sin, and to confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?  
(*I renounce them.*)

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?  
(*I renounce them.*)

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you away from God?  
(*I renounce them.*)

*The Pastor addresses the confirmands and the assembled congregation:*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**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 to the dead.  
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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among and regularly gather with God's faithful people, to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through your own word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? (*I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*)

People of God, do you promise to surround, support, and pray for these confirmands in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

May God strengthen, bless, and equip us to fully live out these promises we have made this day. **Amen.**

*Those making affirmation kneel for the blessing:*

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in \_\_\_\_\_ the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life, empower her/him in her/his serving, give her/him patience in suffering, and bring her/him to everlasting life. (*Amen.*)

*The confirmands are presented to the assembly.*

## Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's creation:

Holy God, we pray for your Church, gathered here this morning and all around the world, that you would continue to call us to be that beacon of hope, that sign of grace, that voice of truth, that doer of justice, and that place of safety and refuge where all are welcomed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, upon this congregation, stirring up our sense of direction and mission, that we may continue to seek new ways to live out the life given us through the One who frees us, not simply for our own benefit, but for the healing of the world around us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, we pray for all who are in need: for the poor, the homeless, the widow and the orphan, that you would open our eyes and our hearts to their needs, and to their presence in our society. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, dear God, for a renewal of our hearts and minds, that our walk with you may continually deepen, enabling us to experience the wonder and excitement of loving you and being loved by you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of heaven and earth, be our refuge and our strength. Be a very present help to all who struggle in any way, even as we continue to hold in prayer the well-being of *Bob Cauble, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny and Cherie Knippa, Jeff and Lori Sackett, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Paul Mason, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Beth Knox, Lee Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Dean Olson, Tammy Dorsey, Ron Olson, Ken Boehme* and all else whom we name, that your Holy and Healing Spirit surround them and fill them with new strength, new hope, and new direction. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your good hands, O God of grace, we offer our prayers and ourselves, trusting in your mercy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(Please verbally greet those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")*



## 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 God, Mighty Lord, Gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham and Sarah you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages,

you sent your Son, who, in words and deeds, proclaimed your kingdom

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

For 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, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,

we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes:

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

Pour out your Spirit, O God, upon the gifts of this table,

and upon those gathered here who seek to be your faithful people,

that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live as a people of new life,

that your Word and Covenant be written upon our hearts,

and that we may stand among all your saints in light

when Christ comes again as King and Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**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, you take away the sin of the world: **Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Grant us peace. Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

*We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist are being offered in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.*

## **Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, Almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this Holy Sacrament.  
In your mercy, strengthen us through this holy bread and wine,  
in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

## **Choir**

***O God, Our Help in Ages Past***

## **Dismissal**

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

## **Postlude**

***Prelude in C Major by J.S. Bach***

*Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.*

## This Week at St. John's

Today, October 25 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, October 25 @ 10:00am	Worship
Wednesday, October 28 @ 12:15pm	Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online ( <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86228491799">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86228491799</a> )

*Please see our online calendar at [www.stjohnssa.org](http://www.stjohnssa.org) for other events.  
For prayer requests, please contact the church office  
(210) 223-2611 or [info@StJohnsSA.org](mailto:info@StJohnsSA.org)*

### ***We celebrate the Confirmation of our three 2020 confirmands!***

***Sarah Huber  
Chelsea Huber  
Kevin Dorsey***

## Opportunities to Make a Positive Difference

**CAM Clothing Needs** CAM is currently accepting gently-used clothing items for both adult men and women; casual wear, jeans, khakis, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes. (They are not accepting at this time any slacks, suits, heels, men's dress shoes, prom dresses, or business wear.) Contact Sarah Kory at [skory@cam-sa.org](mailto:skory@cam-sa.org) or call 210-223-4099 with any questions.

**CAM Sandwiches** Every other Tuesday, we deliver sandwiches to CAM to help feed others. The next scheduled Tuesday is November 03. For more information about this ministry, please contact Bea Imken at 210-878-7874.

**Habitat for Humanity** We will be participating in a build this coming Saturday, October 31. If you are able to help, please email Bae Imken at [beafitt@gmail.com](mailto:beafitt@gmail.com). Experience is not required. A full list of safety precautions will be emailed to all volunteers prior to the event.

**Lutheran Disaster Response** The ELCA is often the first on the scene to provide emergency help and continued assistance whenever trouble strikes. Right now, the Lutheran Disaster Response is in need of your generous donations to speed aid to those whose lives have been impacted by recent hurricanes, wildfires, and other calamities. You can donate at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

**Synodical Ministries** Closer to home, you can donate to any number of our own synodical ministries at <https://www.swtsynod.org/give>



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

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