

October 29, 2023—Reformation Sunday

Opening Hymn

ELW #836 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

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.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now 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. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 8:31-36

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They 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'?"

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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

ELW #504 "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,



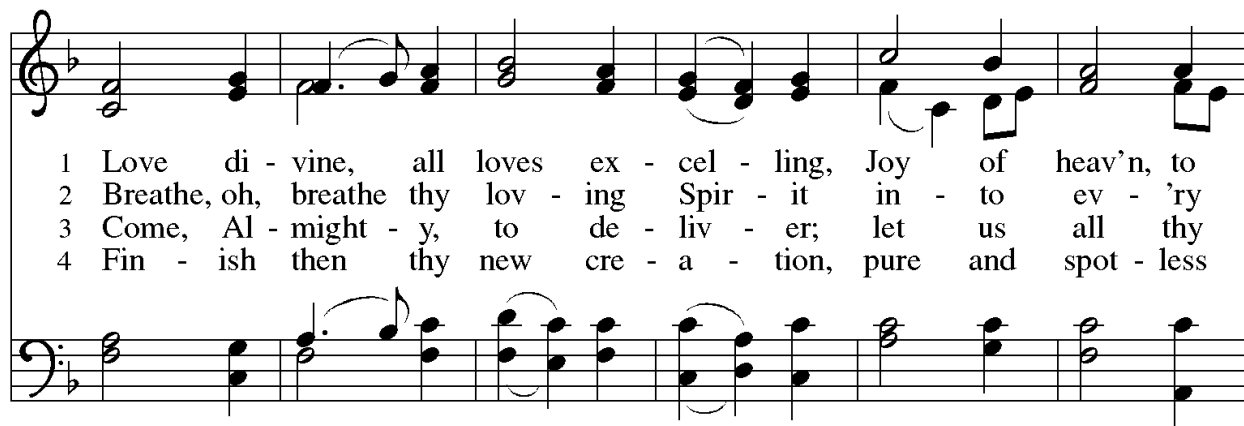
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has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

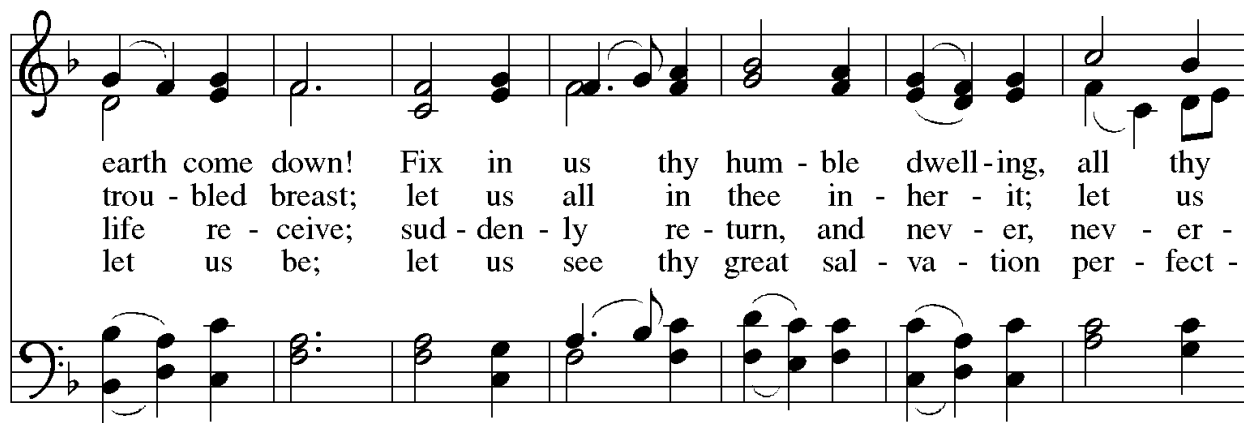
he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Closing Hymn

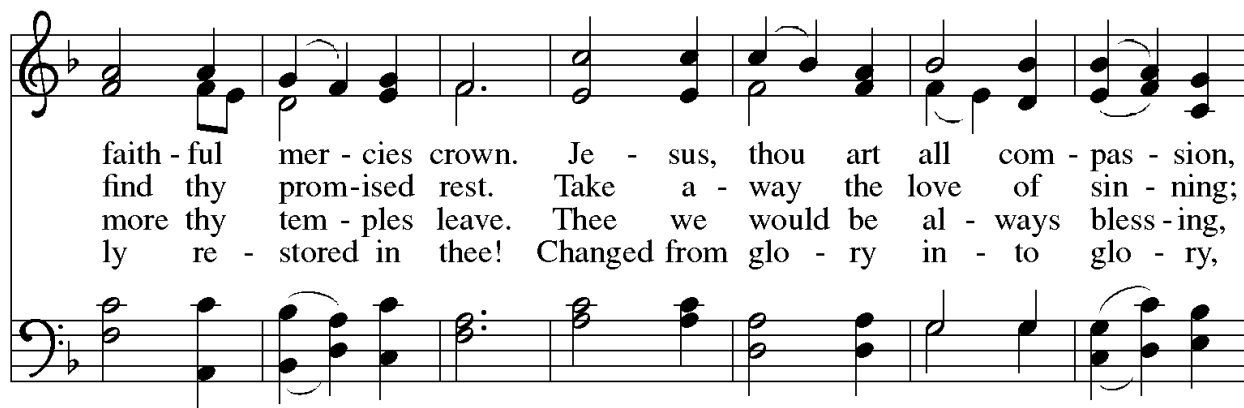
ELW #631 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

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pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

In an 8 July 1530 letter to [Lazarus Spengler](#), Luther interprets his seal:
 Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my
 painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer
 most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why
 my seal is a symbol of my theology. The first should be a black cross in
 a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be
 reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us.




"For one who believes from the heart will be justified" ([Romans 10:10](#)). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural colour. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. "The just shall live by faith" ([Romans 1:17](#)) but by faith in the crucified. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives ([John 14:27](#)). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. [Matthew 28:3](#); [John 20:12](#)). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolising that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolising that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my compendium theologiae [summary of theology]. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen. ^[2]_[3]

Today at 1pm!



Scan for info
& registration!

The background of the poster is a dark grey color. In the center is a large, textured orange circle containing the text 'HALLOWEEN SPOOK-TACULAR' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A black musical note is positioned below the text. Surrounding this central graphic are various Halloween-themed illustrations: a black bat with wings spread in the top left, a white ghost with black eyes and a mouth in the top right, a white ghost with black eyes and a mouth on the left, a black bat with wings spread on the right, a red spider in the middle right, a witch's hat on the left, a large orange and red lollipop on the left, a blue house with orange windows in the bottom left, a black spider in the bottom left, a jack-o'-lantern with a smiling face in the bottom center, a black cat in the bottom center, a yellow crescent moon with a white cloud in the bottom right, and a witch in an orange dress and red hat on the right.

HALLOWEEN SPOOK-TACULAR

October 29th | 1-2 PM
Concordia Lutheran Church
3855 N. Seeley Ave.

Featuring Trio Tantchev
Kids' Costume Parade
Tricks and Treats
~FREE ADMISSION~

concordiafaith.org/concerts
773-281-1225

Concordia Concerts are hosted by Concordia Church and generous support of the Benefactor Society. Second Sundays concerts are offered free to everyone on the 2nd Sunday of the month at noon.

November 5th – Time Change!

It's that time of the year again. We 'fall back' early in the morning of November 5th. Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour – otherwise you'll be early to church!

November 5th – All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 5th, we'll celebrate All Saints Sunday and honor those who have passed by reading the list of the honored dead. If you have someone you would like honored at the service, please either email their names to Desirae at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org or fill out the slip included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate. **The deadline for submitting names is Wednesday, November 1st.**

November 12th – A Day of Events!

Thanksgiving Service

Concordia Church's Thanksgiving service is scheduled for Sunday, November 12th at 10:00am. This special service will include prayers and music in gratitude for our good gifts.

Thanksgiving Fellowship Hour

Following worship on November 12th, we will fellowship together over light snacks and desserts. We invite you to bring a favorite "finger-food" to share. It could be a light appetizer or dessert that is quick and easy to pick up. This time will allow us to share food and conversation between worship and the concert.

Second Sundays Concert

Our next Second Sundays concert is Sunday, November 12th at noon. We'll hear Cara Schlecker, violin, performing with our own Paul Dykstra on piano. It is sure to be a lovely afternoon of music. This concert is free and open to the public. Please share the word with your friends and family and mark your calendars for this date! Should you have questions, feel free to reach out to Marisa at mbuchheit@yahoo.com or Desirae at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org.