

GRACE ... FAITH ... SCRIPTURE - ALONE

October 27, 2024 ... 4:00 P.M.



GLORIFY HIM ...

GROW IN HIM ...

GO WITH HIS GOSPEL

WELS†NorCal Ministries ...

St. Mark's – Citrus Heights, Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville
Other WELS Locations in Redding, Anderson, and Reno (3 locations)

WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) is a National Church Body with locations throughout the United States and with partnerships in over 40 Countries

Celebration of the Reformation

October 31, 1517

May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge
as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Some items to keep in mind as we gather for worship in this place:

LARGE PRINT --- find them on the table with the other Bulletins

Hymns from 'Christian Worship' Red (1993) / 'Christian Worship' Dark Blue (2021)

Personal **hearing assistance** devices are available on the entryway wall near the west entrance. The Sanctuary is also 'looped' for those who have hearing aids that can pick up the signal.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: How often do you contemplate the fact of your salvation through faith in Jesus? It was no small matter what Jesus has accomplished for us, and for all. How easily this Truth can be lost or dismissed. Praise the Lord for Reformers in His church throughout history, people He used to keep the Gospel front and center. And the Lord continues to do this through people like you; this is no small task given to us. Thankfully He has equipped us ... through faith ... by giving us the Scriptures for our constant learning ... and sharing. God help us to not take any of this associated with the Reformation for granted. Let us worship Him!

PRELUDE

Fugue on Thy Strong Word

John A. Behnke

Greeting & Invocation

Minister: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

(Ps 100)

C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

M: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;

C: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

M: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

C: give thanks to him and praise his name.

M: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

C: his faithfulness continues through all generations.

M: Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.

C: Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

HYMN

Musical introduction

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Christian Worship Red # 200

**A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That has us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss effected.
But for us fights the valiant one Whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?" Jesus Christ it is,
The almighty Lord. And there's no other God;
He holds the field forever.**

M: Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

(Ps 119)

C: Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

M: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

C: I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.

M: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

C: My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

Musical introduction

Christian Worship Red # 200

**Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
One little word can fell him.**

**The Word they still shall let remain, Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With his good gifts and Spirit.
And do what they will—Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—
Though all may be gone, Our victory is won;
The kingdom's ours forever!**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. Jesus has said, as recorded in Matthew 22:

C: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

M: This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:

C: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

M: But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

All: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Musical introduction

This Is the Threefold Truth

Christian Worship Red # 406

This is the threefold truth on which our faith depends;

And with this joyful cry worship begins and ends:

Refrain Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Made sacred by long use, new-minted for our time,

Our liturgies sum up the hope we have in him: *Refrain*

By this we are upheld when doubt or grief assails

Our Christian faith and love, and only grace avails: *Refrain*

This is the threefold truth which, if we hold it fast,

Changes the world and us and brings us home at last: *Refrain*

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Revelation 14:6-7

The Gospel points us to, and connects us to, the reason we do not need to fear the hour of judgment.

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷ He said in a loud voice, “Fear

God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SONG

God Is Our Refuge and Strength

John Behnke ... ©2005 CPH, St Louis, MO

Choir: God is our refuge and our strength, our only help in trouble.

Choir & Congregation: *God is our refuge and our strength, our only help in trouble.*

Choir:

We will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the sea,
though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells. *Antiphon*

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts.
The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Antiphon*

He makes wars cease He breaks the bow and burns the shields with fire.
Be still, be still, be still and know that I am God.
The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Antiphon*

God is our refuge and our strength, our only help in trouble.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:5-11

Do not be alarmed by what we see and experience as the End draws near, the Lord is still doing His work with the goal of bringing more people to faith in His Gospel.

Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹“You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. ¹⁰And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. ¹¹Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

Musical introduction

How Firm a Foundation

Christian Worship Dark Blue # 800

**How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**“When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow,
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.**

**“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace all-sufficient shall be your supply;
the flames will not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.**

**“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”**

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on Daniel 3:16-28

“Stand Firm”

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” ¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³ and these three men, firmly

tied, fell into the blazing furnace. ²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.” ²⁵ He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” ²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them. ²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage

Christian Worship Red # 293

**God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way, in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure
throughout all generations.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord, our refuge and strength, we gather to worship and praise you for your ongoing work of reformation in your Church.

C: Lord, to you alone be glory.

M: God of grace, in unfathomable love you pitied us sinners and sent your Son as our substitute to deliver us from sin, guilt, death, darkness, and despair.

C: For your grace, Lord, to you alone be glory.

M: By your grace you sent your Spirit to call us to repentance. Your powerful gospel rescued us from rebellion and fills us with faith in you, the true and living God.

C: For saving faith, Lord, to you alone be glory.

M: By your grace we are heirs of your eternal Word and trustees of the inspired Scriptures, through which you proclaim your saving truth to every generation. By the Scriptures you overthrew the darkness of those who perverted your teachings and restored to your church the message of salvation by grace alone.

C: For the Holy Scriptures, Lord, to you alone be glory.

M: In these last days, Lord Jesus Christ, protect your little flock. We are like sheep living among fierce wolves. Satan stalks us like a roaring lion. Defend us from false teachers who twist

your Word to satisfy the latest longing.

C: For wisdom and watchfulness under attack, hear our prayer, O Lord.

M: As we celebrate the Reformation that restored your pure gospel to your Church, we also celebrate our common confession of the pure gospel in Word and sacrament.

C: For this unity of faith, we give you thanks, O Lord.

M: In thanksgiving for the many and amazing blessings restored to your Church through the Reformation, we commit ourselves to your care.

C: Be our mighty fortress, our trusty shield and weapon, O Lord. Amen.

M: We also pray:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

*The Ushers will direct Communicants (7 per side) by way of the center aisle, returning by way of the outer aisle. Either pick up a Wafer from the table by the Baptism Font or receive a Wafer in your hand from the Pastor. Note: Tinted cups in the center of the Trays are filled with Grape Juice. Your empty Cup can be placed on the backside of the Rail. **If seated on the east side, approach the Rail from left to right; if on the west (Pulpit) side, right to left.** When at the Rail, you may kneel or stand. If you need Communion in the Pew, please let an Usher or the Pastor know of this.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Musical introduction

By Faith

Christian Worship Dark Blue # 868



1 By faith we see the hand of God
 2 By faith our fa - thers roamed the earth
 3 By faith the proph - ets saw a day



in the light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign,
 with the pow'r of his prom - ise in their hearts,
 when the longed - for Mes - si - ah would ap - pear



in the lives of those who prove his faith - ful - ness,
 of a ho - ly cit - y built by God's own hand,
 with the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death



who walk by faith and not by sight. v. 2
 a place where peace and jus - tice reign. *Refrain*
 and rise tri - um - phant from the grave. v. 4



Refrain
 We will stand as chil - dren of the prom - ise; we will fix our



eyes on him, our soul's re - ward. Till the race is fin - ished and the



work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

**4 By faith the church was called to go
 in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
 to deliver captives and to preach good news
 in ev'ry corner of the earth. (Refrain)**

**5 By faith this mountain shall be moved
and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,
for we know in Christ all things are possible
for all who call upon his name. (Refrain)**

M: As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. *Eph 2*

C: Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

M: But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions –

C: It is by grace we have been saved.

M: *Yes, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.*

C: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

M: Brothers and sisters go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

SONG

Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

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**All Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,
For round us falls the eventide.
O let Your Word, that saving light,
Shine forth undimmed into the night.**

*Choir In these last days of great distress
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That we keep pure till life is spent
Your holy Word and Sacrament.*

**All To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold
Speak tongues of fire and make us bold
To shine Your Word of saving grace
Into each dark and loveless place.**

Choir May glorious truths that we have heard,
The bright sword of Your mighty Word,
Spurn Satan that Your Church be strong,
Bold, unified in act and song.

Choir Restrain, O Lord, the human pride
That seeks to thrust Your truth aside
Or with some man-made thoughts or things
Would dim the words Your Spirit sings.

All Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;
Preserve our faith our whole life through –
Your Word alone our heart's defense,
The Church's glorious confidence.

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress

Charles Callahan

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Thomas Gieschen

Serving in Worship

Pastors Jonathan Kolander (St. Mark's) & David Waterstradt (Hope, Penryn)

Focus on the Scriptures given by Pastor Daniel Waterstradt (Light of the Valleys, Reno)

Musical Accompanist: Rosemarie Boushek Percussion: Don Black

Choir Director: Jodi Rowe



¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5