



Worship Helps: Campus Ministry Reformation Service

Scripture Readings

Gospel	Matthew 13:47-52	Matthew 10:16-23
First Lesson	Daniel 1:3-21	Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23
Second Lesson	Colossians 2:6-15	Galatians 5:1-6
Psalms	Psalm 46	

Prayer of the Day:

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on 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.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Alleluia. (John 8:31-32)

Sermon Text (suggestions):

Colossians 2:6-8 (Campus Ministry 100 theme verse - Sermon provided in Campus Ministry Toolkit)
Psalm 46
1 Kings 18:21
Psalm 78:4-7
Daniel 1
Daniel 3
Daniel 6
Matthew 13:52
Matthew 13:31-32
Matthew 16:18
Acts 17:16-34

Hymn of the Day:

200 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Additional Hymns:

203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word
234 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
377 Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice
508 Gracious Savior, Gentle Shepherd
538 The Church's One Foundation
593 God's Word is Our Great Heritage

Liturgy options from Luther's Small Catechism:

1. Responsively include the 10 Commands with the "What Does This Mean?" with the Confession & Absolution.
2. Utilize the 1st Article of the Apostles' Creed & "What Does This Mean?" after the 1st Lesson, the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed & "What Does This Mean?" after the Gospel, and the 3rd Article of the Apostles' Creed & "What Does This Mean?" after the sermon.
3. Responsively include The Lord's Prayer & "What Does This Mean?" after the Prayer of the Church.

Prayer of the Church:

Lord God, you are our refuge and strength. You are our ever-present help in trouble. At times throughout history it has seemed as if the devil has succeeded in silencing your Word. Yet again and again, you utilize sinful people. Those who know you direct others to your Word. The Holy Spirit blesses that as he sees fit. In the midst of darkness, the light of the Gospel shines forth. We see that through the pages of Scripture and then also as history continues. We give you praise and thanks for those individuals you have molded and shaped so that your Word continues to be proclaimed. You blessed us with the gift of Martin Luther and his abilities. The Bible was translated so that the common person could understand what the Bible said. We have been given teaching tools that help explain your Word in a systematic way. Thank you for those gifts. Forgive us when we despise preaching and your Word. We give you thanks for the pastors, teachers, lay people, and parents who have been equipped to train the young entrusted to them. We ask that you continue to bless us as we pass down the truths of Scripture to each generation. Frustrate the plans of the devil, the world, our sinful natures as they make attempts to lead us away from your Word. Keep us strong in the faith until the day you call us out of this world and into our heavenly home.

We give you praise and thanks for the 100 years that you've allowed our synod to work with students on college campuses located on this continent. As in the time of Martin Luther, the institutions many of them attend have no regard for you and your Word. Help these young men and women so that they stay strong in their faith and utilize opportunities they are given to testify to the truth of your Word. Continue to mold and shape them so they continue to use the gifts and abilities that you have given them for work in your kingdom. Bless the called workers and congregations that serve these young men and women. Help all of us see this work as a joy and privilege. When they fall into temptation, help us to be there for them and direct them to you, our refuge and strength, our ever-present help in trouble. When worry, doubt, and despair seize us, help us to be still and know that you are God. You are the one who has rescued us through the work of your Son, our Lord Jesus, and carry us heavenward day by day.

While these colleges and universities are located here in North America, there are many students from all parts of the globe. Help us to reach out and proclaim the gospel to them so they can proclaim you to the people they know and meet in their countries of origin. Bless our synod's institutions of higher learning so that the students they instruct are equipped for service in your church. Help future called workers work together with those they serve. Keep us from becoming captive to hollow and deceptive philosophy which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. Help us to continue to live in Christ being rooted and built up in him. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Service notes:

With this service, we pray that sister congregations are able to gather together for joint services. A special aspect that could be included is a special celebration giving thanks to God for the 100 years of Campus Ministry with which he's blessed our synod. Since it is the Reformation, we wanted to include a key gift from Martin Luther to God's people – the Small Catechism. While college students have grown, our hope is that they remember that Confirmation is not graduation from God's Word but just the beginning of another chapter of

their spiritual walk with their Savior. There are often key points of where the devil tries to snatch those teenagers. The first is the Sunday after Confirmation. The second is during their high school years. We want both them and their parents to continue in their spiritual growth. Often that happens, yet sometimes it doesn't. The instruction from Luther's Small Catechism often serves as a tool to help them remember the Lord's teaching to them. Going to college is another key moment in life where the devil has many tools in his toolbox to snatch those young men and women away from their Savior. With campus ministry, we continue to take them deeper into God's Word. Again, the lessons from the Small Catechism continue to be a useful foundation in the directions that our Bible Studies go. Because of that, we wanted to highlight Luther's Catechism in this order of service that we hope you utilize for the Reformation celebration this year.

A few other connecting thoughts include where the Reformation took place. A university was a central point in Wittenberg, where Martin Luther made many connections. In fact, as he continued to serve, another area where Luther was impactful was through the opening his home. While there were pastoral students there, we know there were others too. When it comes to campus ministry and serving college students, there are multiple methods that pastors and congregations utilize to serve the students close to their congregations while away from their home congregations. A common factor involves a willingness for the pastor/congregation to open their church buildings and homes. Often those gatherings involve food/eating.

With the Reformation Service, feel free to use this for one congregation or a joint service. We are also supplying a bulletin example from St. John's in Minneapolis. Please make that service your own, as there are many options for adding choral or instrumental music.

We are hoping some our areas where we have a higher saturation of WELS congregations consider hosting a joint service. If you have questions about doing this, please contact Pastor Daniel Lindner at LindnerDan@hotmail.com.

Sample bulletin/service included below

A Joint Reformation Service

St. John's in Minneapolis, MN

November 1, 2020

4:00 p.m.



“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”

Colossians 2:6-8

A note about the cover: You see a desk. These pieces of furniture are common personal tables utilized for studying, learning, and preparing. They are used by college students and professors. Students have returned to campuses to grow in their knowledge and understanding to help them in their future careers. While that knowledge and understanding is important, the most important thing for a college student to know is their Lord and Savior. In the picture, that desk is located in a special room. It's the room in the Wartburg Castle where Martin Luther translated the New Testament from Greek into German. While October 31, 1517 is celebrated as Reformation Day, much was done after that famous day. Included in that was Luther's time at the Wartburg. He went into hiding because of the bounty on his head. While there in a simple room like this, the Lord allowed him to translate the New Testament so that the common people could hear and read God's Word in their own language. Many would learn who Jesus is and what he says in his Word. They would grow in their faith. With campus ministry, we know that the young men and women of our congregations often need an escape, a calm place where they can spend time with their Savior. Written works (the Bible Translation, the Small & Large Catechisms, etc.) coming from the Reformation have been blessings for Christians over the centuries. They continue to be blessings for the young men and women attending secular campuses. They have outlined basic truths of Scripture that campus pastors and congregations utilize in their ministries to college students. Our hope is that these students not only grow their academic learning, but also in their spiritual life. Our WELS campus ministries strive to serve as those calming places where our WELS students can grow in their faith and connect with others who share that faith. They also strive to be places that our WELS students can utilize for both outreach and evangelism.

Today in our worship service, we have gathered to celebrate the Reformation. On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the Castle Church door of Wittenberg. On this day he publicly addressed the false doctrine that forgiveness could be bought through the purchase of indulgences. Forgiveness is found in Christ Jesus through his perfect life and death on the cross.

The color of paraments today is red signifying the color of fire (think Pentecost) and victorious truth of Christian teaching based on the blood of Christ. With red on Reformation, we think of how the Lord again brought the truth of Scripture to people who had been led astray by false teaching.

A special aspect of our worship service today is to give thanks to the Lord for the 100 years of blessings that he's bestowed upon our WELS Campus Ministry. Over the past century, the Lord God has used campus pastors, students, staff, and congregations to point others the truth of Scripture. As we include thanking God for the Reformation and the 100 years that he's blessed our Synod's Campus Ministry, we've included parts of Luther's Small Catechism. It continues to be a valuable learning tool for foundational points of Scripture. These are the points that we continue to build upon not only while on college campuses, but throughout our life. For the Campus Ministry 100 (CM100) celebration, the theme for this celebratory centennial is "Connecting Campus to Christ". The section of Scripture that this theme is based upon is Colossians 2:6-8, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." We want to make sure our young adults as they attend various institutions of higher learning stay connected to their Savior during their university/college years. As that happens, the Lord also provides opportunities to our campus ministries to point others to our Savior.

Opening Hymn CW 234
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **You shall have no other gods.**

M: We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

C: **You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.**

M: We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

C: **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

M: We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.

C: **Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.**

M: We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.

C: **You shall not murder.**

M: We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

C: You shall not commit adultery.

M: We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

C: You shall not steal.

M: We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

C: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

M: We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

C: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

M: We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house or obtain it by a show of right, but do all we can to help him keep it.

C: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

M: We should fear and love God that we do not force or entice away our neighbor's spouse, workers, or animals, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

C: Holy and merciful Father, as I examine your Holy Word, my failure to follow your commands and walk in your ways is exposed. I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good on a daily basis. I deserve nothing but your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

C (*sings*): Fast bound in Stan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
Yet deep and deeper still I fell;
Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.

My own good works availed me naught,
No merit they attaining;
My will against God's judgment fought.
No hope for me remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left naught but death to be my share
And hell to be my sentence.

CW 377; Stanzas 2-3

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C (*sings*): Dear Christians, one and all rejoice,
With exaltation springing,
And with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him.

But God beheld my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of his mercies great,
He planned my soul's salvation.
A Father's heart he turned to me,
Sought my redemption fervently;
He gave his dearest treasure.

CW 377; Stanzas 1,4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on 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.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Daniel 1:3-21

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

THE 1ST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

M: What does this mean?

C: I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.

All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

2ND LESSON: Colossians 2:6-15

VERSE OF THE DAY

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” *(John 8:31-32)*

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:47-52

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

THE 2ND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES’ CREED

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

M: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won 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 with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and

serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn of the Day – A Mighty Fortress is Our God (CW 200, 201)

Sermon

THE 3RD ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

M: What does this mean?

C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

OFFERING

Offerings will go to support WELS Campus Ministry

1. By your holy Word instruct them;
Fill their minds with heav'nly light.
By your pow'rful grace convince them
Always to approve what's right.
Let them feel your yoke is easy;
Let them find your burden light.
2. Taught to love the holy praises
Which on earth your children sing,
With their lips and hearts, sincerely,
Glad thank off'rings may they bring,
Then with all the saints in glory
Join to praise their Lord and King.

CW 508; Stanzas 3-4

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord God, you are our refuge and strength. You are our ever-present help in trouble. At times throughout history it has seemed as if the devil has succeeded in silencing your Word. Yet again and again, you utilize sinful people. Those who know you direct others to your Word. The Holy Spirit blesses that as he sees fit. In the midst of darkness, the light of the Gospel shines forth. We see that through the pages of Scripture and then also as history continues. We give you praise and thanks for those individuals you have molded and shaped so that your Word continues to be proclaimed. You blessed us with the gift of Martin Luther and his abilities. The Bible was translated so that the common person could understand what the Bible said. We have been given teaching tools that help explain your Word in a systematic way. Thank you for those gifts. Forgive us when we despise preaching and your Word. We give you thanks for the pastors, teachers, lay people, and parents who have been equipped to train the young entrusted to them. We ask that you continue to bless us as we pass down the truths of Scripture to each generation. Frustrate the plans of the devil, the world, our sinful natures as they

make attempts to lead us away from your Word. Keep us strong in the faith until the day you call us out of this world and into our heavenly home.

We give you praise and thanks for the 100 years that you've allowed our Synod to work with students on college campuses located on this continent. As in the time of Martin Luther, the institutions many of them attend have no regard for you and your Word. Help these young men and young women so that they stay strong in their faith and utilize opportunities they are given to testify to the truth of your Word. Continue to mold and shape them so they continue to use the gifts and abilities that you have given them for work in your kingdom. Bless the called workers and congregations that serve these young men and women. Help all of us see this work as a joy and privilege. When they fall into temptation, help us to be there for them and direct them to you, our refuge and strength, our ever-present help in trouble. When worry, doubt, and despair seize us, help us to be still and know that you are God. You are the one who has rescued us through the work of your Son, our Lord Jesus, and carry us heavenward day by day.

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

M: I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray as Christ our Lord taught us.

C: Our Father in heaven

M: With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that he is our true Father and that we are his true children, so that we may pray to him as boldly and confidently as dear children ask their dear father.

C: Hallowed be your name

M: God's name is certainly holy by itself, but we pray in this petition that we too may keep it holy.

C: Your kingdom come.

M: God's kingdom certainly comes by itself even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us.

C: Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

M: God's good and gracious will certainly is done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

C: Give us today our daily bread.

M: God surely gives daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked, but we pray in this petition that he would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

C: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

M: We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins or because of them deny our prayers; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we ask, neither have we deserved them, but we ask that he would give them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will forgive from the heart and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

C: Lead us not into temptation.

M: God surely tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or lead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins; and though we are tempted by them, we pray that we may overcome and win the victory.

C: But deliver us from evil.

M: In conclusion we pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil that threatens body and soul, property and reputation, and finally when our last hour comes, grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to himself in heaven.

C: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

M: We can be sure that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and are heard by him, for he himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Therefore we say, "Amen, Yes, it shall be so."

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face shine upon you be gracious unto you,
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C (sings): Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn CW 203 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

+ To God Be the Glory! +

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NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION® NIV®
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