



*If the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed*

JOHN 8:34, 36

REFORMATION DAY (OBSERVED)

"INFORMED FREEDOM"

REV. PETER C. WILLIAMSON

7:30AM & 9AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026 IN THE SANCTUARY

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

REFORMATION DAY (OBSERVED)
"INFORMED FREEDOM"

REV. PETER C. WILLIAMSON
7:30AM & 9AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

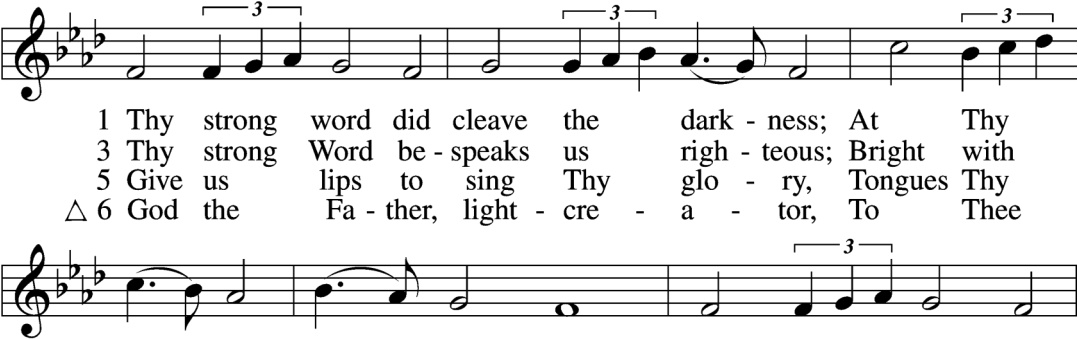
AS WE GATHER Though many congregations observe Reformation on the last Sunday in October, there are those who keep it on the day appointed. For those, the propers of the day place us in conversation with Jesus about the greatest commandment and a discussion of David. This is not unrelated to the issues that gave birth to the Reformation—Law and Gospel and the confession of who Christ is. Jesus spoke well to those who questioned Him—so well that from that day on no one dared question Him anymore. As hard as it is to admit, we do not reason ourselves into the kingdom of God but enter by faith, trusting in Christ who fulfills all the Law and the Prophets and the promise of salvation as David's Son and David's Lord.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC "Thy Strong Word" *Hildebrand*
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" *Pachelbel*
Brass Choir— "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" *Wolff*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN "Thy Strong Word" *LSB 578, sts.1,3,5-6*



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
5 Give us lips to sing Thy glo - ry, Tongues Thy
△ 6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - a - tor, To Thee

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats that shout the
laud and hon - or be. To Thee, Light of

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy ho - ly name.
 Light be - got - ten, Praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, Glo - ry,

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with
 glo - ry be to Thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!
 now and ev - er Praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005874 Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

people. ⁷And 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SANCTUARY CHOIR “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” *Luther*

EPISTLE

Romans 3:19-28

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. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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. ²⁶It 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. ²⁷Then 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. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

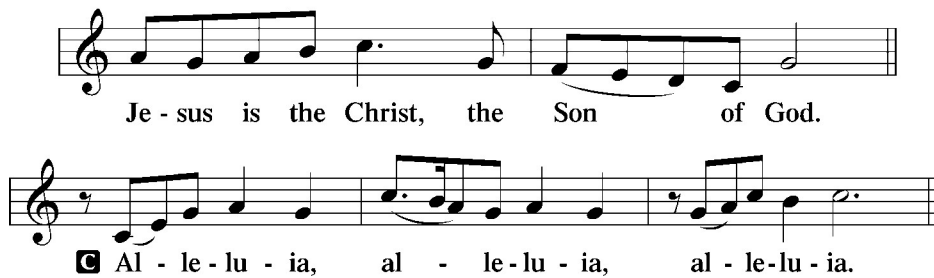
ALLELUIA AND VERSE



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."³³ 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'?"³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us, under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF THE DAY “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

LSB 656

1. A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need That hath 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.
2. With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there’s none other God; He holds the field forever.
3. Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow’r 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.
4. 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 take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife, Though these all be gone,
Our vict’ry has been won; The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Text: Public domain

SERMON

“Informed Freedom”

Rev. Peter C. Williamson

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Weber

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(After each petition, the following is said...)*

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

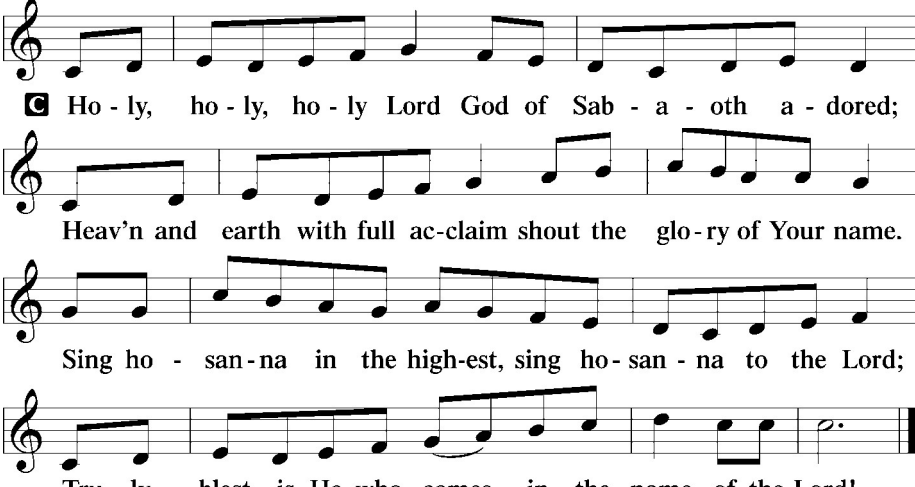
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

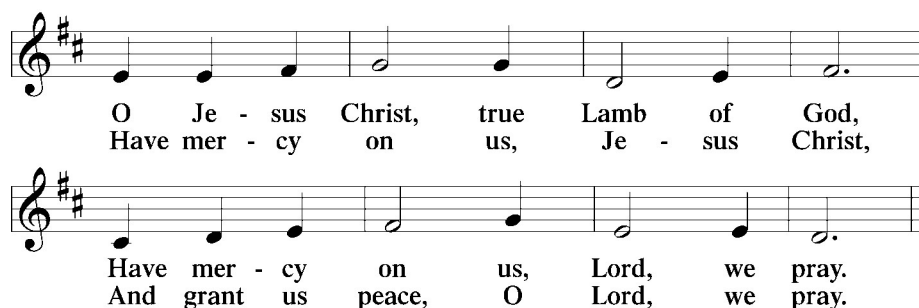
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;





Text: Stephen P. Starke

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *Christ invites all repentant sinners to partake in His feast of forgiveness – the Lord’s Supper. LCMS communicant members are invited to examine their faith using pages 329-330 in the hymnal and receive the Savior’s body and blood. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays in lieu of wine. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Visitors wishing to commune should see a pastor or an elder before service. We ask this because we love you.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Glory Be to God the Father” *LSB 506*
 “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” *LSB 636*

DISMISSAL AND POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- A** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- 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 HYMN

“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

Grundtvig

(to the tune of “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” [isorhythmic])

1. 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.

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, 1861–1925, alt. Text: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Cherwein

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. Peter C. Williamson, Associate Pastor*

LITURGIST: *Rev. James L. Mayland, Senior Pastor*

ORGANIST: *Rod Riese*

MUSICIANS: *Sanctuary Choir, Kyle Wiskow, director;*

Mike Grosnick, Glenn Marquardt, trumpet; Will Hoehne, French horn;

Alicia Durkee, trombone

ELDERS: *7:30am—Bob Zimmerman, Todd Hauer; 9am—Dan Schwantes, Tim Rock*

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Your presence is very special to us. May your faith be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship to God!

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY—

7:30am & 9am Sunday

CONTEMPORARY/MODERN WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER (SLC)—

5pm Saturday & 9:15am Sunday

- **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**—Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. We invite those who have been instructed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Others are asked to speak with a pastor before receiving the Sacrament. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*
- **LARGE PRINT**—large print copies of the bulletin are available on the table in the Narthex or you may ask the usher for one.
- **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**—for ages 3-6 & 7-12 years, are available on the table in the Narthex.
- **NURSERY**—for children ages 3 & under. The upper level nursery is located near the Church Lounge on Sundays. *Please Note: The upper level nursery will be unstaffed unless volunteers are available.*
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**—Sunday School is available for children 4 years old through 6th Grade at 10:30am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 10:30am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8th grade School and our Childcare (infant through 13 years).
- **ELEVATOR**—is located next to the nursery on the upper level. On the lower level the elevator is located across from Classroom #101, which is past the offices. Use as needed.
- **RESTROOMS**—Narthex level across from the Library, lower level next to the elevator.
- **JOINING TRINITY**—We invite you to become part of this Christian community! If interested in membership, please speak with an elder or pastor, and we will contact you.

GUIDING STATEMENT:

As an enduring family of disciples, we teach, love and connect through multi-generational education and service.



TEACH—LOVE—CONNECT—SERVE—GROW

Teach the Truth—Love like Jesus

Connect with Compassion

Serve with Purpose—Lifelong Growth

Automated Giving Options



501 STEWART AVENUE, WAUSAU, WI 54401

CHURCH: 715-842-0769 SCHOOL: 715-848-0166

EMAIL: TRINITY@TRINITYNET.ORG WEB: WWW.TRINITYWAUSAU.ORG


Trinity Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL