

**Oct 25 2020**

*Welcome to God's church on this the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, the 503<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Reformation of Martin Luther. These communities of faith, North Beaver Creek and Blair Lutheran Churches have one great aim and purpose: to help people grow in life-giving relationships with their neighbors, their own selves, the earth and God.*

Announcements

*Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God. Let us take a moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity,  
the one who fashions us,  
the one who heals us,  
the one who reforms us again and again.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

L: Source of all life,

**we confess that we have not allowed  
your grace to set us free.**

**We fear that we are not good enough.**

**We hear your word of love freely given to us,  
yet we expect others to earn it.**

**We turn the church inward,  
rather than moving it outward.**

**Forgive us. Stir us.**

**Reform us to be a church powered by love,  
willing to speak for what is right,  
act for what is just,  
and seek the healing of your whole creation.**

**Amen.**

L: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world.

Your sins are forgiven,

✝ God's love is unconditional,  
and we are raised up as God's people  
who will always be made new,  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

**Hymn** A Mighty Fortress is Our God 504

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 A mighty fortress is our God,<br>a sword and shield victorious;<br>he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod<br>and wins salvation glorious.<br>The old satanic foe<br>has sworn to work us woe!<br>With craft and dreadful might<br>he arms himself to fight.<br>On earth he has no equal.         | 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land<br>all threat'ning to devour us,<br>we tremble not, unmoved we stand;<br>they cannot overpower us.<br>Let this world's tyrant rage;<br>in battle we'll engage!<br>His might is doomed to fail;<br>God's judgment must prevail!<br>One little word subdues him.   |
| 2 No strength of ours can match his might!<br>We would be lost, rejected.<br>But now a champion comes to fight,<br>whom God himself elected.<br>You ask who this may be?<br>The Lord of hosts is he!<br>Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,<br>God's only Son, adored.<br>He holds the field victorious. | 4 God's Word forever shall abide,<br>no thanks to foes, who fear it;<br>for God himself fights by our side<br>with weapons of the Spirit.<br>Were they to take our house,<br>goods, honor, child, or spouse,<br>though life be wrenched away,<br>they cannot win the day.<br>The kingdom's ours forever! |

**Greeting**      The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: Amen**

**Prayer of the Day**

Holy God

We give thanks that your Spirit renews the church in every age.

Pour out your holy Spirit on your faithful people, regardless of age.

We give thanks for Reformation.

We pray for Reformation.

Where we have corrupted your church, purify it.

Where it is in error, correct it.

Where it is right, strengthen it.

Where it is in need, provide for it.

Where it is divided, unite it.

Open our hearts to the love that leads us in its sacred way.

Through us.

Instruments of your peace, your love, your joy, your grace.

A new church for a new age.

Amen.

**First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<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.

### **Psalm: Psalm 46**

*The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)*

<sup>1</sup>God is our ref- | uge and strength,  
a very present | help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters | rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,  
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the | break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of | hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of | hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. **R**

### **Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28**

*Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through*

*works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

<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.

### **Gospel Acclamation** 172 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

L: The Gospel for today is from John, the 8th chapter.

**C: Glory to You oh Lord**

### **Gospel: John 8:31-36**

<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.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord  
C: Praise to You, O Christ

## SERMON

### Hymn of the Day Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

517

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your  
word;  
curb those who by deceit or sword  
would wrest the kingdom from your  
Son  
and bring to naught all he has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r  
make known,

for you are Lord of lords alone;  
defend your holy church, that we  
may sing your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,  
send peace and unity on earth;  
support us in our final strife  
and lead us out of death to life.

## The Apostle's Creed

### The Prayers of the People *Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world,  
and all those in need.

#### *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Holy God

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel Where the church is  
divided, unify it. Free us to be Christ's one body, graciously receiving his life and  
boldly offering it to a world in need. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit.  
As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this  
planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands  
recovering from natural disasters of any kind (*especially*).

#### *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill (*especially*).

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel  
Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church.  
Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**L:** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### **The Offering**

**Offering Resp. # 686 We Give Thee But Thine Own (V 1 only)**

### **The Offering Prayer**

God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth,  
these resources of our life and our labor.  
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,  
& use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Light.

**C: Amen**

### **The 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.**

L: Let us pray

**The Pre-Communion Prayer**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy (p 153)**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:

you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;

you encircled the globe with air;

you created fire for warmth and light;

you nourish the lands with water.

You molded us in your image,

with mercy higher than the mountains,

and with grace deeper than the seas,

and you have blessed us and cherished us

that we, who are estranged and broken,

might be returned to wholeness to live in your Spirit,

by the life and death of Jesus.

### **The Words of Institution**

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 for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith until he comes:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

### **The Lord's Prayer (sung)**

#### **The Invitation**

The table is open to everyone, without exception. Behold who you are, become what you will receive. Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

#### **The Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful and most high God, creator and giver of life, you have called all people from darkness into light, from error into truth, from death into life. Grant grace to our confirmands and bless *them*. Raise *them* by your Spirit. Revive *them* by your

word. Form *them* by your hand. Bring *them* to the water of life and to the bread and cup of blessing, that with all your people *they* may bear witness to your grace and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

L: We have asked God to change us by his grace, fill us with his goodness and make us a mirrored reflection of the Divine. We ARE the body of Christ – giving ourselves for others. We are the blood of Jesus – may our lives and love be spilled out for those around us who are hurting. We have become what we received.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing:**

..May your life be a brush in the very hand of God—painting new creation into every nook and cranny of reality that your shadow graces. Be courageous. Be free. Prune that which needs pruning, and water that which thirsts for righteousness. You are the body of Christ, the light of the world. Pick up your hammer. Your brush. Your trumpet. Your skillet. Your pen. Lift up your head. And walk. Run. Dance. Fly. The great Artist calls you into being. So go into your world, your valley, your garden, and create with His grace and in His peace. Amen.

**Sending Song** *661 I Love to tell the Story*

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|---|---|
| 1 I love to tell the story<br>of unseen things above,<br>of Jesus and his glory,<br>of Jesus and his love.<br>I love to tell the story,<br>because I know it's true;<br>it satisfies my longings<br>as nothing else would do. | of Jesus and his love.  |
| <i>Refrain</i><br>I love to tell the story;<br>'twill be my theme in glory<br>to tell the old, old story  | 2 I love to tell the story:<br>how pleasant to repeat<br>what seems, each time I tell it,<br>more wonderfully sweet!<br>I love to tell the story,<br>for some have never heard<br>the message of salvation<br>from God's own holy word.<br><i>Refrain</i> |
|   | 3 I love to tell the story,   |

for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,

I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

**Dismissal**

L : Go in peace. Be the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**