



Reformation Day

October 31, 2021

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

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Reformation Day
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

[Click here for a video of the service.](#)

PRELUDE . . . *“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”* vs. 1,4

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

INVOCATION

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God: our Creator, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

All: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God of all generations, on this Reformation Sunday, we remember all in the faith who take bold steps in new directions to re-form your church.

All: Pour out your spirit upon us, that we too may dream dreams, see visions, and view the whole created order as your bountiful temple. With responsibility and joy, we pledge ourselves to renew this temple, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

All: Amen.

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

Silence for Reflection.

P: Source of all life,

All: 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.

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

All: Our sins are forgiven, God's love is unconditional.

P: We are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

LITANY . . . *"Litany for Reformation Sunday" by Lisa Frenz*

L: Rejoice in the freedom of God,

All: a freedom which sweeps us into an ever-changing reformation of self and the world around us.

L: A freedom that is an invitation to intimacy with God.

All: A freedom that demands action.

L: A freedom that makes us different: Christ-like, rather than world-like.

All: A freedom that enables us to step out of the norm into the extraordinary.

L: Grasp this freedom and be a prophet

All: who seeks and speaks wisdom,

L: an advocate

All: who slays the dragons that threaten the weak,

L: a teacher

All: who instills in us the wonder of God,

L: a witness

All: who testifies with power and insight,

L: a public servant

All: who sows harmony,

L: a visionary

All: who sings songs of hope.

L: Rejoice in the freedom of God that makes us true to ourselves;

All: everyday becoming the person God made us to be.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Gracious Creator, we pray for your holy church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt,

All: purify it;

L: where it is in error,

All: direct it;

L: where in anything it is amiss,

All: reform it;

L: where it is right,

All: strengthen it;

L: where it is in need,

All: provide for it;

L: where it is divided,

All: reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: You are the living God who sustains all life in continually unfolding ways. And now may we open our ears to your continually unfolding Word. You speak to us in new and vital and imperative ways.

All: With all the power you have given us, let us be silent and open to listening... for nourishment, comfort, for challenge and new focus. Amen.

FIRST READING . . . *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

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. 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. 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. 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.

SECOND READING . . . *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 silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 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.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the

righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 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; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

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

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Reader: Our God is the source of wisdom and understanding.

All: Bless us with your gifts, O God.

Reader: Our God feeds us with the bread of life and the wellspring of our salvation.

All: Bless us with your grace, Christ Jesus.

Reader: Our God is the foundation of mercy and compassion.

All: Bless us with your gifts, Mighty Spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: The holy gospel according to John, chapter eight, beginning with the thirty-first verse.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL . . . John 8:31-36

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 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’?”

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

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim*

MESSAGE . . . *Pastor Tim*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: As the people of God, we are called to be justice for the oppressed,

All: food for the hungry, freedom for the imprisoned.

L: Let us lift up those in need,

All: as we share gifts for the church’s mission.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: God of justice and love, transform these offerings, that they may be gifts of justice and love for a world in need of hope and help.

All: Let love flow through these offerings, that they may become gifts of love for the world. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God’s creation. We pray for all who long for a word of truth and for the radical grace that flows from the cross. Inspire congregations to freely and boldly proclaim your love for all people with persistence and hope. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for your creation, for mountains, rivers, streams, cities, homesteads, and neighborhoods. Write in our hearts a new love and care for creation. Give us the will to curb wasteful habits and to hold accountable those who neglect the vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for all who long for healing in mind, body, or spirit. Strengthen hospitals, clinics, counseling centers, nursing homes, and recovery centers to be holy spaces of renewal that all might live the abundant life you intend. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for all who seek to grow in faith and love of you. Guide teaching and learning in confirmation, small groups, Sunday school, youth groups, schools, seminaries, and universities. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation with which we are most comfortable:

All: 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: God's love sends us forth.

All: God's love sets us free.

P: God's love makes us whole.

All: God's love brings us hope.

P: God's love blesses our lives.

All: God's love brings healing to our world.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE . . . *"The Church of Christ, In Every Age"* vs. 1,5

SINGING BOWL

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist & Reader: Neal & Rene Bierbaum

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

