

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. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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.**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
Sunday Worship – Reformation Sunday  
Sunday, October 25, 2020

**Lessons and Prayers**

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Romans 3:19-28 (NRSV)**

<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.

## Psalm 46 (ELW)

<sup>46.1</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**

## John 8:31-36 (NRSV)

<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.”

## Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence.

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill, especially Kimberly Armino; Juliette Bedes; Bertie Black; Jeanette Burgess; Robin Coon; Alana Daley & family; Stephanie Fiore; Jack Gade; Charlotte Gardinier; Charlie Gardinier; Terri Herteux; Joey, Scott, & Anna Hummel; Richard Kibwassali; Debbie LeHerissier; Rit Marrero; Cindy McCarthy; Ann Phipps; Bill Preuss; David Ray; Doug Schultz & family; Annette Sprude; AT; RT; Lisa Tebbe; Mary Yurian; those who are suffering during the pandemic; those suffering from natural disasters; and those we name aloud or in our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**